Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

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Victim of brutal attack suffered 85 separate injuries

SADISTIC KILLER GETS 18 YEARS

Report by John Scott

A SADISTIC murderer has been locked up for at least 18 years after deliberately making his victim suffer by inflicting 85 injuries.

Drunken Daniel Jones attacked Paul Tompkins – a vulnerable former mental health patient – with his fists, feet and weapons.

The 34-year-old used a knife, scissors, table fork, even a stereo system and pieces of a table to inflict wounds to the head, face and chest of the 59-year-old, who was murdered in his Stourbridge home, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Murderer Daniel Jones

Judge James Burbidge QC told Jones: "This was a prolonged attack of exceptional brutality causing pain and suffering. You left him with many injuries that caused his death.

"You were drinking together and after some hours something caused you to turn against him. What that spark was we will never know because he is dead and you now say you cannot recall the cause."

In the onslaught against Mr Tompkins, who lived alone in a ground floor flat in Forge Road, Wollaston, every rib bar one on the left side of his body was fractured.

Throttle

The victim's neck showed signs of an attempt to throttle him with a length of cable, while defence injuries to his arms showed how he struggled to fend off the blows.

On New Year's Day a couple in the flat above the home of Mr Tompkins heard Jones shout: 'Where is it? If you don't give it to me I will kill you'. There were crashing and banging sounds.

Before Jones left his victim dead or dying, he reached across the body to unplug and steal a new flat screen TV. Jones sold the TV for £30 but was arrested the same day following a call to police from a man to whom the murderer had confessed.

Judge Burbidge said: "It was as callous an act as there might be. He was dying and you took what appears to be the only valuable possession he had."

Mr Michael Burrows, defending, said Jones was "horrified and ashamed" by what he did, adding: "He was plainly affected by drink and has no clear recollection."

HIPPODROME SAVED – NOW THE HARD WORK BEGINS

Celebrating – Friends of Dudley Hippodrome (from left) Sam Perks, Gordon Downing, Ivor Robinson and Garry Sawers AKA Black Country Gaz

THE hard work has just started for the campaigners who have been handed the lease for Dudley Hippodrome.

The priority for the campaign group, who have taken over the Castle Hill landmark, is to tackle asbestos inside the former theatre and bingo hall.

Dudley Council have handed the keys to the building over to campaigners to help their plan to rejuvenate the site.

Chairman of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome said the first move will be to get asbestos down to 'a safe level'.

It was revealed last week that a group fighting to save the iconic venue had been given a five-year lease by Dudley Council to reopen it.

That was cause for celebration as the keys to the building were handed to Black Country Hippodrome Ltd. But lots more work is needed to get the theatre back up and running, campaigners have admitted.

Gordon Downing, chairman of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, said: "It's certainly a big move forward but obviously there are still one or two hurdles for us to get over.

"When we get the keys the first major problem is going to be dealing with all the asbestos and the first of our fundraising will go towards doing that.

"We would love money to come forward from anywhere, now we're going to take control of the building.

"Once we've got the asbestos to a safe level then we'll need to get someone in to give us a full assessment of the building from an expert point of view. That will give us more of an idea of the fundraising required."

Council chiefs had plans to demolish the building but these have now been shelved.

RESCUE

Attemped murder charge after blaze

HERO neighbours saved a woman and her daughter from a burning house in Cradley after hearing cries for help.

Jodie Gair, aged 26, was in the property alongside her six-year-old daughter when the blaze broke out in Chapelhouse Lane in the early hours of June 3.

Daniel Watkins, 34, of Smiths Close, Alcester, has appeared before Dudley Magistrates charged with two counts of attempted murder in connection with the fire. He was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on July 4.

COMMUNITY

Population rising by 1,000 per year

THE population of Dudley is set to increase by more than 20,000 over the next two decades – a rise of nearly 1,000 people per year.

New figures show the population will rise by 6.6 per cent to 338,000 by 2039. But that increase prediction is the lowest in the West Midlands.

Neighbouring Sandwell is set to see its population rocket by more than 50,000 over the next two decades, piling pressure on homes, schools and hospitals.

VANDALISM

Beacon bike ban to protect beauty spot

A CAMPAIGN to stop motorbikes from riding over beauty spot Sedgley Beacon has taken a step forward after campaigners drew up plans to install fencing.

Community campaigner Damien Corfield, of Sedgley, says verbal agreements have been made with Dudley Council to install the structures which will help to block access by motorbikes.

Residents have complained of anti-social behaviour from people riding the bikes and ripping up grass.

West Midlands Police say officers have regularly received complaints concerning anti-social use of off-road motorbikes.

INSIDE

REMEMBERING THE GREATEST

PAGE 6

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CONTENTS

MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	8
REVIEWS	20
THE FAST TICKET	21
PUZZLES	27
MOTORING	29
SPORT	35 & 36

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Halfpenny Green wines are a top tipple

BUDGE over Bordeaux, look out Loire... bottles of wine from Halfpenny Green Vineyards, near Stourbridge, are being stocked by top-end stores Marks & Spencer and Waitrose.

The news was being celebrated as part of a week-long toast to English wine at the centre at Bobbington.

On Saturday around 2,000 people converged on the 30-acre vineyard and craft centre, founded in 1983, for tastings of Halfpenny Green wine as well as food from local producers.

Figures reveal that sales of English wine have been rising rapidly for several years, and show no signs of slowing down.

Last year Marks & Spencer began stocking the vineyards' Long Acre 2014 white and have now put in an order for their Mercia 2014, another white, and the Halfpenny Green Sparkling Rose.

Waitrose has also started selling the vineyards' Tom Hill 2014 after announcing it was increasing its stock of English wine by 25 per cent.

Growing

Sales of English and British wine at Waitrose have increased by 80 per cent year-on-year, making it the retailer's fastest growing drinks range.

Ben Godbehere, Halfpenny Green's sales and marketing assistant, said: "We're elated. It's a huge compliment for our wines, especially from Marks & Spencer who already stocked one of our wines and came back for two more.

"English wine is predominantly produced in the south because of the slightly sunnier climate and its proximity to London, particularly for export purposes. So it's great for us as a Midlands producer to be making a name on the national scene."

Vineyards in the central and northern regions have been benefitting from higher temperatures and sunshine in recent years.

Last year Halfpenny Green Vineyards released a full-bodied red wine, Rondo, which at 15 percent alcohol is one of the strongest UK-made reds.

Hotel chain makes its new plans crystal clear

A HOTEL complex could be built on an historic former glassworks site next to the Black Country Living Museum.

Proposals for a Travelodge in Tipton Road have been lodged with Dudley Council.

The 78-bed four-stotry hotel is earmarked for the former Royal Brierley Crystal factory site. It would house 72 car parking spaces, three motorcycle spaces and eight bicycle parking bays.

The factory was demolished in 2011 and the northern part of the site has been redeveloped for The Dudley Archive and Local History Centre.

Dudley Council's regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed welcomed the hotel scheme. He said: "Any investment and any opportunity for increased tourism is going to boost the economy of Dudley.

"That's what our emphasis is and hopefully with the metro link coming as well more and more tourists will be coming here.

"We don't want people just to come for one day – but for a weekend or a whole week and take advantage of the full experience Dudley has to offer.

"Anything like this is welcome and wonderful for Dudley. Hopefully we'll be able to help and support as much as we can.

Suited

"Obviously it will also create jobs and that's also got to be good news."

A design and access statement submitted as part of the planning application states: "The site is particularly suited to hotel development as a result of its location just to the north of the town centre, its accessibility and wider strategic location within Dudley.

"Hotels are under represented within the area and this site provides an opportunity to deliver a new hotel that directly responds to market requirements in Dudley.

"The development will have a positive impact upon the local area."

The planning application concludes: "Overall the proposed development will deliver the redevelopment of a currently vacant site for a hotel use which is suitable, appropriate and viable in this location as part of the wider redevelopment of the area and will add to the offer of Dudley."

Council promise to clean up the cone

Several plants have been spotted growing out of the brickwork on the historic Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley

TREES and shrubs are growing from the brickwork of Black Country landmark the Red House Glass Cone in Stourbridge.

Dudley Council bosses have vowed to clean up the growth affecting the iconic structure as quickly as possible.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said officers were aware of the problem and will be organising work to clean it up.

He said: "Officers will be carrying out work in the next few weeks. The building is something we are proud of and we want to make sure it is looked after.

Wordsley councillor Paul Brothwood said: "With the new glass museum opening we want Wordsley to look as smart as possible. It is an old building and it won't be as simple as brushing it as we don't want to damage the structure."

The issue has been a common problem in recent years and a small tree growing out of the structure has previously been removed from the brickwork.

The Red House Glass Cone was built at the end of the 18th century and used for manufacturing glass until 1936.

Reaching 100 feet, glass cones were once commonplace in the Stourbridge area because of its glass industry. Today the cone at Wordsley is one of only four left in the United Kingdom. A new glass museum is set to open across the road from the site later this month.

Arson attacks suspected in stable blaze and skip fire

A BLAZE that destroyed a stable block in Stourbridge is being treated as arson, following two suspicious fires in the Lye area on Sunday.

Fire crews were called to the blaze in Hayes Lane, Lye, on Sunday night.

The stable, measuring around eight by five metres with a corrugated roof, was completely destroyed when the fire engulfed the entire wooden structure.

Plumes of thick smoke could be seen rising from the burning wood situated in the middle of a field. The stable contained hay and straw.

One fire crew from Stourbridge and one from Brierley Hill attended the scene.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "We believe the fire was started deliberately."

Warehouse

West Midlands Police were called to the scene around 9.50pm by the fire service.

Another suspected arson attack took place half a mile away several hours earlier in a skip at a derelict warehouse.

Fire crews attended the blaze around 7.57pm at the site along Bromley Street in Lye following a 999 call.

One fire crew from Brierley Hill and one from Stourbridge attended.

West Midlands Police also attended the scene and began investigations.

Sheltered housing flats available

FLATS have become available at four sheltered housing schemes in the Dudley borough.

The council's sheltered housing complexes offer older people the opportunity to maintain their independence.

Netherton Lodge in Dudley, Church View in Lower Gornal, Joe Jones Court in Sedgley and The Gables in Kingswinford offer a variety of flats.

All the properties are monitored 24-hours.

There is also a secure door entry system, laundry facilities, attractive gardens, shared kitchen, guest bedroom, and communal lounges allowing tenants to engage in a range of social activities.

To find out more about these available properties, or others across the borough, call (01384) 812042.

Record fair spins into a new venue

A RECORD fair held in Stourbridge has expanded and moved to a new home . Kiki & Henry's Record Fair was set up in the town over a year ago by Henry Ratcliffe and Maria Kaye and is now being held at the River Rooms. On Saturday doors are open from 11am to 4pm.

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Dismay as retail giant BHS set to disappear

SHOPPERS came to pay their last respects to BHS after it was announced that all the group's stores are closing with blame firmly being laid with former owner Sir Phillip Green.

It was confirmed last week that the High Street giant is to disappear with 11,000 job losses nationwide.

The company has been a fixture across the West Midlands with major stores in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Merry Hill, Telford and Birmingham.

Former owner billionaire Sir Phillip Green has been criticised for paying a £400 million dividend to his family from the business and for his management of the pension scheme. He will face questions from MPs.

Councillor David Sparks, of Dudley Council, said: "BHS is one of the anchor stores in the Merry Hill shopping development so I would expect another major retailer will step in to take over that store. The collapse of BHS has to be investigated at the highest level."

In Wolverhampton, shoppers called the announcement 'a real shame'. Tom Lennon, a 59-year-old self-employed contractor from Brewood, pointed the finger of blame at Sir Phillip: "He has shown himself to be the unacceptable face of capitalism. The hundreds of millions he took out of the company could have been put back into revamping stores. Our high street is disappearing."

Debbie Addington, 57, from Coseley, said: "It is like what happened with Woolworths. You start to think about what we are left with."

Opportunity for DIY innovation

INVENTORS in Dudley have been urged to share their innovative construction or DIY product ideas as part of a new contest.

Successful winners in the Travis Perkins Innovation Awards could be offered up to £10,000 of funding or a product trial at the FTSE100 distributor's network of Travis Perkins branches.

The timber and builders merchant has a base in Pear Tree Lane. Rob Searl, branch manager at Travis Perkins Dudley, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for absolutely anyone to develop a new business and could even see their product on the shelves of Travis Perkins branches."

For further information or to enter visit www.tpia.co.uk website.

Delays warning as pipes replaced

MOTORISTS can expect delays as roadworks are being carried out during work to replace gas pipes by National Grid along Corngreaves Road and Graingers Lane in Cradley Heath until June 10.

When The Greatest came to Dudley

Muhammad Ali in Dudley in 1983

THE 'world' is invited to the funeral of Muhammad Ali – as boxing figures across the Black Country paid tribute to the 'The Greatest'.

A huge procession and funeral will be held in his home town of Louisville, Kentucky, tomorrow (Friday) to 'allow anyone that is there from the world to say goodbye', his family says.

Tributes have flooded in from around the world, including a eulogy from President Obama – and there have also been memories of his visits to the Black Country.

Ali first came to the region in 1979 and returned again in 1983, opening a car parts shop in Dudley, giving a speech at a Wolverhampton hotel and then visiting a fan's house in Oxley – only to find he was on holiday!

Ali Fever swept through the region with crowds following him wherever he went, including a ribbon-cutting at Buyrite Autoparts in Dudley and a visit to the Sheraton near Chapel Ash in Wolverhampton. Those who bore witness to the scenes and even got to speak to the great man described him as the playful, charismatic, charming, witty, humble and unpredictable.

Businessman Terry Carvin from Buyrite Autoparts in Dudley said the boxer's visit attracted 2,000 fans. The 69-year-old said: "He was doing a lot of talking to the fans. He must have been there a good four hours."

Pat Smith, aged 60, of Oxley, recalls Ali visiting her auntie's home nearby. Her father, Lesley Ward, had become a close friend of Ali and been to several of his fights. But on the day he visited, Les was in Australia on holiday – so had to speak with his hero over the phone instead.

● Special times – page 6

Teenage mother shook her baby and then lied

A TEENAGE mother who shook her baby so hard he had two bleeds on the brain has been spared prison.

The 19-year-old 'snapped' when the three-month-old boy did not take an early morning feed, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

"She asserts that he was not taking to his food well, was scratchy, irritable and not responding – so she took hold of him under the armpit area and shook him with some force," explained Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

The young Black Country woman – who is now 21 and cannot be named for legal reasons – was 'riven with guilt' but went back to bed and did not wake for five hours. The child was downstairs with her then boyfriend and did not appear unwell but became limp and unresponsive soon afterwards, continued the prosecutor.

The child was taken to hospital where the mother lied to doctors about what had happened. She did not admit the truth until three months later, the court heard. Initially she blamed her boyfriend and a two-year-old cousin for the injury, revealed Mr Spratt.

Scans revealed the baby had two bleeds on the brain and also some bleeding behind the eyes. Experts agreed these were the result of shaking. There were no other injuries.

Fits

The boy had three small fits while in hospital after the January 7, 2014, incident but none since. Surgery was not required and he can recover naturally. There is a risk of him developing epilepsy or learning difficulties but currently no evidence of further problems.

The boy is now in care with the mother, who had no previous convictions, allowed monthly supervised access. Her former boyfriend is serving a prison sentence after stabbing her.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said: "She was a very young mother effectively bringing up the baby as a single parent because her partner at the time was of little or no support. It was a difficult, abusive relationship. In the early morning she snapped after becoming frustrated and harmed a child to whom she was devoted. She cherished him and when she realised the enormity of what she had done, she lied. As a result of her wrongdoing she has lost him."

The mother admitted ill treating a child. She was given an 18 month jail term suspended under supervision for two years.

Dudley Mayor Mohammed Hanif is calling on people to get new flags to replace tatty Black Country banners like the one held by James Stevens

Call to fly fresh new flag with real pride

BLACK Country folk have been urged to 'take down their tatty flags' ahead of this year's Black Country Festival with a limited number of free flags up for grabs.

The festival is now in its third year and organisers said many of the flags hanging from shops, homes and other buildings have seen better days

The Black Country flags have been a massive success and have been spotted being waved at such high-profile events as the at Glastonbury Festival and at the football World Cup in Brazil.

This year's month-long festival kicks off in July with events across the borough, culminating in Black Country Day on July 14 and activities in Dudley town centre on July 16.

Organisers are urging people to snap up new flags to make sure this year's festival kicks off in style. Flags are available from the Black Country T Shirts shop in Dudley town centre, who will donate profits from sales to the festival. Call Black Country T Shirts, Castle Street, on (01384) 639 392 or email admin@blackcountrytshirts.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free Euro football matches at cinema

FOOTBALL fans can enjoy all the home nations' games from this summer's European Championships in France on the big screen at Dudley's Showcase Cinema.

Showcase will be screening all British sides in action live and for free this summer, including England's opening game against against Russia on Saturday evening. The Castlegate venue has high definition screens and surround sound. Tickets are available from the box office on a first come first served basis. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.

Guided walk on the Himley estate

WITH summer fairs, open days and band concerts there will be something for everyone at Himley Hall and park this summer.

Hot on the heels of this year's successful borough trail attended by more than 1,300 people, walks and fun days are on the horizon at Himley.

Highlights will include a guided walk around the estate on June 18 from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Walkers should meet by the notice board on the main car park. The walk is free but booking is essential on (01384) 817817.

Canal trust holds real ale festival

MORE than 40 beers will feature at Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust's third annual real ale festival this month.

It will be held at the trust's site off Birmingham New Road from June 23-26, from 5-11pm Thursday, 11am to 11pm Friday and Saturday and 11am to 3pm on Sunday. Entry free for trust and Campaign for Real Ale members.

For non-members entry is £2.50. A recruitment fair tomorrow (Friday) to find more trust volunteers.

Extra patrols to deal with off-road bikers

POLICE are stepping up patrols following reports of off-road bikers causing a nuisance in Dudley.

Complaints have been made about youths riding the bikes on roads and grassland on the Russells Hall estate.

Police said officers would be sent out to try to tackle the problem.

Anyone caught causing a nuisance has been warned their bikes could be seized and that they could end up in court if riding without a licence or insurance.

Female football boost

A WOMEN'S football team in Dudley has won a £4,500 grant to help boost grassroots football.

Gornal Ladies FC were awarded the funds from the Football Foundation – the UK's largest sports charity.

The money will help create a new girls' academy and three new teams.

It's time to put your foot down on fungal nail infection!

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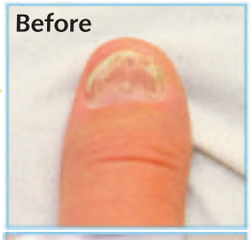

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

REJOICE, for a Parliamentary report due soon will recommend that, because we are living longer and fitter, the age limit to keep your driving licence without the need for a review should be raised from 70 to 75. Assuming you can remember where you left the car keys.

THE Government tells us that leaving the EU would be a leap in the dark. In the next breath, with amazing precision, it warns that, after Brexit, the value of a £60,000 pension pot could fall by exactly £5,200. If it's such a dark place, how can they see so clearly?

OUR changing language. Some gay activists involved in this month's Pride march in London are opposed to contingents from the armed forces taking part on the grounds that it appears to support the military and arms industry. Or as Symon Hill, coordinator of the pacifist Peace Pledge Union, puts it: "I urge the organisers of Pride to wake up and realise that they are helping the armed forces and BAE Systems to pinkwash their image." Pinkwash. I love it.

ONLY an old harrumpher would point out that, if our armed forces hadn't won the Second World War, Britain today would be part of the Reich and the only march for gays would be the one leading to the gas chambers.

WHICH leads on to the following pertinent quote. It has been variously attributed to Kipling, Churchill and George Orwell and the words are sometimes slightly changed. But it bears repeating and you'll get the gist of it: "People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." You may not approve of militarism. You may be offended by the sight of soldiers marching. But never kid yourself that you would enjoy the life and liberties you have today without those rough men.

SINCLAIR McKay, author of a new book on the wartime codebreakers at Bletchley Park, claims that some locals, perplexed by the oddballs working at Bletchley, came to the conclusion that the place was a government-run psychiatric hospital. I can believe that. It was my privilege on two occasions to interview Professor Harry Hinsley, one of the most remarkable Brits of the 20th century. The son of a Walsall coal merchant, he went to Cambridge and led Bletchley's team who broke German naval codes.Hinsley recalled one expert whose daily routine was to take his after-dinner tea each evening while strolling by the park's lake. When he finished his tea, he would toss the cup and saucer into the lake. Some were merely eccentric but he was literally crack-pot.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Police probe theft after bike death

POLICE say they are investigating claims that a teenager who died in a crash in Dudley was riding a stolen bike.

Brandon Holt, aged 17, was killed after a smash on Wrens Nest Road just after 6.15am on Sunday, May 29, when he collided with a parked car.

Police spokesman Hannah Fitzgerald confirmed officers were probing claims the bike was stolen following a suggestion made online. She said: "The bike is believed to have been stolen and forms part of our investigation."

Floral tributes have been laid at the junction of Wrens Nest Road and Gorse Road and officers have issued an appeal for anyone who may have been in the area at the time to come forward.

Pc Damian Gibson, from the Regional Collision Investigation Unit, said: "We have specialist officers who continue to liaise with the family of Brandon at this sad time and our thoughts remain with them."

Witnesses, or anyone with information is urged to call West Midlands Police on 101.

Brandon's brother Mitch paid tribute to him on Facebook: "Mad how everyone pulls together at such a sad time. Rest in peace bro, know [you're] looking down on us.

"Hardly had any sleep, thank you for all the messages and support it helps a lot at a time like this.

"Everyone and everything done to help is really appreciated and means a lot more than you can imagine, heartbreaking waking up with him not with his family but i know his looking down on us all."

Scrutiny board call over school closure

By Clare Butler

DUDLEY Council's Conservative leader wants a scrutiny board to be set up following the decision to close Coseley School.

Councillor Patrick Harley said it was important to assess what went wrong with the Henne Drive school, which is set to close by August 2017.

Addressing the council's cabinet, Councillor Harley said: "I think what is important is where we go from here. There are clearly things that have been wrong with Coseley School for many years.

"After being put in special measures in 2013 it seems that problem after problem occurred.

"The thing is that there are other schools in this borough that are in similar situations so I think to set up a scrutiny board to look at how did it go into special measures, why did it not recover and how to get a school back on the site as soon as possible would be good thing to do."

Phased

The school will now undergo a phased closure over the next 12 months. More than 250 people responded to a consultation with 84 per cent disagreeing with the closure.

Martin Duffield, a former Religious Studies teacher at the school for 30 years, said: "The decision to close the school is absolutely awful.

"Ultimately something should have been done when the school went into special measures, as why was it left so long before action was taken. I am hoping that if a scrutiny board is set up they can look into this more and take the relevant action."

The school is currently judged by Ofsted as 'requiring improvement'.

Last year pupils at the school achieved 31 per cent five A*-C GCSEs, including English and maths, placing it in the bottom 10 per cent of schools in the country.

Leisure facilities on the site are expected to remain open to the public following the closure.

Two-year wait for eyesore wall repair

Robert Mooney looks at the damaged wall in Stacey Close, Old Hill, that has still to be fixed two years on

A 12ft wall that collapsed two years ago has still not been rebuilt by council bosses – with piles of bricks and rubble blighting homes.

The eyesore wall which backs onto Robert Mooney's garden in Clyde Street, Old Hill, fell into nearby Stacey Close in June 2014.

Orange barriers have remained in place since the collapse but Mr Mooney claims that despite several visits from council officers still nothing has been done.

Mr Mooney, who has lived in the street for 15 years, said it had become a 'hazard' with the remainder of it about to fall at any time. He and neighbours have campaigned for the mess to be cleared.

The council says the situation is complicated over land ownership. Mr Mooney, aged 53, said: "It collapsed into the garden of the first house in Stacey Close and the rest of what is left looks like it is about to fall at any time. Council officers came out on several occasions and said it was structurally unsafe, but then they say they are always awaiting to get quotes for the cost of it to be repaired.

"It is really worrying as this is a hazard that could fall at any time."

Councillor David Hosell, for Highways and Environment said: "If the wall is unsafe then I would presume a council officer has looked at it and passed comment on it in the past.

"If it is structurally unsafe then this is something that needs to be assessed."

Adrian Scarrott, director of Neighbourhood Services, said: "We are addressing this.

"However it is a complicated situation involving land ownership and an old wall. We are doing what we can to sort it out."

Patients are shocked by closure of GP surgery

PATIENTS of a doctor's surgery in Halesowen were surprised to find the practice closed without notice.

The Coombs Wood Surgery, in Coombs Road, was taken over two years ago by Stourside Medical Practice, which also oversees Halesowen Health Centre and Tenlands Road Surgery.

Patients arriving for scheduled appointments last Tuesday morning saw a letter stating the surgery was closed and had been repossessed.

Stourside Medical Practice released a statement saying patients had still been able to keep their appointments and visit its remaining two sites, and future appointments had been allocated.

It added: "We were surprised to find a note on the surgery door giving no notice of this closure. I would like to thank all of our patients for the way that they have responded.

"We have facilitated all appointments from our remaining two sites and have made sure future appointments have also been re-allocated. We will continue to do this until the issues are resolved.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group said it was working with the practice to find out what had happened. Dan King, director of membership and primary care for Dudley CCG, said: "We are working with the practice to understand what has happened."

Patients can call Halesowen Health Centre on 0121 550 1010 or contact Tenlands Road on 0121 550 7171.

New management for Labour Club

THE former Cradley Heath Labour Club is under new ownership after being bought for a six-figure sum.

The Graingers Lane venue shut suddenly last year after the committee in charge revealed they could no longer afford to keep it running.

It sold for £165,000 at a recent auction at Aston Villa Football Club. The new owners have not been revealed although property developers had expressed an interest in buying the club when it was put on the market.

The club was extremely popular during the 1980s and 90s and would regularly draw in large crowds. Live bands and other entertainment were also a feature.

It closed suddenly last August having been a fixture in the town for almost a century.

Jolly Crispin wins top cider pub hat-trick

THE Jolly Crispin, in Upper Gornal, has won its third successive Dudley and South Staffordshire Camra branch cider pub of the year award.

It was presented to licensee Rob Carey at the opening of the Clarence Street pub's spring cider festival.

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£16k grant will help vulnerable youngsters

MORE than £16,000 in grants has been handed to two groups working with vulnerable children and young people in the Black Country.

The cash from Children in Need will fund recreational and leisure activities for youngsters in Coseley and Wolverhampton.

Coseley-based Insight Society has also been awarded £8,896 to provide severely visually impaired children with a programme of activities to improve their physical fitness, raise aspirations and help reduce isolation.

The project will look to engage participants in team sports, outdoor play, creative arts and provide access to computers for recreational games and homework.

The group will also look to offer 30 blind or visually impaired children the chance unity to access screen readers in a variety of languages.

Penn Hall School in Wolverhampton has been awarded £7,493 to deliver a holiday scheme for three to 18-year-olds with complex additional needs.

Funding will help cover volunteers, day trips and specialist vehicle hire for activities, including bowling or cinema visits.

Headteacher David Parry said: "Sometimes the children and young people we support are restricted in the activities they can engage with. This funding from BBC Children in Need means that we can provide the support necessary for them to enjoy their childhoods to the fullest as they deserve."

Beach created in park grounds

A BEACH will be created at Himley Hall and Park for its annual under-fives day later this month.

The event is taking place on June 24, from 10am to 3pm.

It will include a funfair, maze, train rides, mini zoo and donkey rides.

Tickets will be £4 for adults and children aged two to five-years-old, and £2.50 for under-twos. Family tickets costing £14 for two adults and two children will also be on sale.

Meanwhile, a guided walk around the estate will take place on June 18 between 10.30am and 12.30pm

It's a free event but places need to be booked by calling 01384 817 817.

Photo firm's 52nd shop in the frame

PHOTOGRAPHY specialist Jessops has opened its 52nd shop. New Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, cut the ribbon to unveil the store store at intu Merry Hill.

Neil Old, boss of Jessops, said: "We are confident that there is no other retailer that can offer our level of service, impartial advice and passion."

Creatures come out of shell for summer

One of the tortoises outside

DUDLEY Zoo's African spurred tortoises have taken their first steps outside this year.

With the advent of the warmer weather, keepers have opened the door to their outdoor paddock, allowing them to nip outside and graze.

Section leader Jay Haywood said: "The tortoises have been kept in their heated indoor quarters since October as they're native to the southern fringes of the Sahara desert and hot dry grasslands, so don't appreciate the cold weather.

"Now we're starting to see more warm sunshine it's great weather for them to wander out and enjoy the outdoors as and when they please."

There are currently six African spurred tortoises – the third largest species. In November keepers gave them a treat and they will able to enjoy munching on grass and grated carrot packed inside plastic balls with holes in.

A herbivorous species, the tortoises eat fruit, vegetables and pellet food as well as grass. They can weigh 105kg and live up to 80 years. In their native home, they are primarily most active during the rainy season in July to October. They emerge from their burrows at dawn and dusk to forage for plants and grasses. With onset of the hot dry season, adult tortoises often retreat to their cool, moist burrows and become dormant.

Young tortoise aestivate in the burrows of small mammals. This aestivation process is the opposite of hibernation.

In the wild the species is declining rapidly due to habitat loss, capture for pet trade and hunting for food and body parts for traditional medicines.

Appeal to reach funds goal for Edwards plaque

A FUNDRAISING drive has been launched to secure a blue plaque honouring Dudley football icon Duncan Edwards.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin and Councillor Dave Tyler are leading the campaign to have the plaque unveiledin memory of the Manchester United legend. But it would have to be funded entirely by the public.

Almost £600 has been raised towards the £2,000 target.

The campaigners are now calling on people to help boost the total to ensure the plaque can be installed in the Priory Park where 'Busby Babe' Edwards, who died following the Munich Air Disaster in 1958, honed his skills as a boy, and are hopeful people from Dudley, Manchester United supporters and football fans in general will get behind the bid.

Duncan Edwards

It is hoped the plaque will ready in time to be unveiled in October to coincide with what would have been the England star's 80th birthday.

Labour MP Mr Austin has now issued a rallying cry to help them reach their target.

Mr Austin said: "Like anyone else from Dudley, I grew up with the name Duncan Edwards ringing in my ears. He's a football legend and an inspiration to lots of people in Dudley so I'm working with Councillor Dave Tyler to get the blue plaque he deserves.

"This memorial will be completely funded by the local community. Dave and I have kicked things off but we need your help."

A statue of Edwarrds already takes pride of place in the town centre and a major trunk road which passes the town also bears his name.

Councillor Tyler, who represents Kingswinford and Wall Heath, said: "The only thing missing in memory of Duncan Edwards is a blue plaque. "We want to encourage people to donate whatever they can – we want to make it the people's plaque for Duncan."

Donations to support the blue plaque appeal can be made at www.duncanedwardsplaque-labourclp54.nationbuilder.com

Hail the ale at bostin' beer festival

James Stevens, Councillor Pete Lowe, Dudley Mayor Mohammed Hanif and festival organiser Steve Edwards

DRINKERS will be raising a glass to celebrate the range and quality of Black Country beers at a festival next month.

There will be plenty to tempt tastebuds at the Black Country Beer Festival which will be held at the Brierley Hill Civic Hall from July 29 to 31.

A number of beers, ciders and perries will be on the menu, and alongside a celebration of local brewers from our own region, a selection of real ales from overseas will also be available to sample.

Leader of Dudley Council, Pete Lowe, said it was going to be a 'bostin' event.

"It's really exciting and I can't think of anything better than a pint of real ale from local brewers in the Black Country," he said.

"I can't wait to head down and sample some of them. It's going to be bostin'."

"This is something that has never been done before and it's a lot to organise to get all the micro-bars in one place, but it will be fantastic to celebrate the thriving businesses that we have in the local ale industry too.

The event will run from noon to 4pm and from 6pm to 11pm.

Black Country folk and culture will be at the forefront of the event as it plays its part in the Black Country Festival celebrations throughout July.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teenager setting his sights on uni

A TALENTED teenager has completed a free six-month course in physics and now hopes to be the first from his family to go to university.

Kristopher-Ryan Hinds, aged 17, a Year 12 student at Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath, received the free tuition from entrepreneur Rob Laker, including how to use a high-specification telescope to film the surface of the moon.

Kristopher said: "Rob has a masters in astrophysics and our shared passion made for really interesting discussions."

Fundraiser in line for Branson prize

AN online fundraising company owner is a stepcloser to meeting Sir Richard Branson after beating thousands of rivals in a business competition.

Lee Clark, of Stourbridge, progressed to the next round of the Voom competition, which will eventually see competitors pitch their business directly to the Virgin supremo. The winning business will earn a £250,000 advertising campaign.

Mr Clark's website, Give Penny, enables people to donate in stages, such as each mile covered during cycle challenge.

Bookies plan at former off-licence

A BETTING shop could open at a former off-licence in Stourbridge.

The building at 86 Hagley Road has been vacant since 2014 but plans have been lodged by Betfred to relocate from No 100. Six people work there.

The company says it would not permit another bookmakers to open at its existing site to 'ensure there is no increase in the number of betting shops in the locality'.

Dudley Council will make a decision in the coming weeks.

Rail journeys delayed as train breaks down

RAIL users were hit by delays caused by a broken down train.

Services were affected between Birmingham Snow Hill and Stourbridge Junction last Tuesday afternoon.

Some trains were cancelled while others were severely delayed from around noon. Delays were reported for more than an hour on the line.

The broken down train was removed from the line by around 1.30pm and London Midland said services were up and running again a short time later.

Car wash bid lodged

A CAR wash could be opened on a busy road in Halesowen. The facility would be built next to Teamworks Karting, off Dudley Road, if plans are approved. It would be on an existing yard area which is paved, according to proposals submitted by Michael Chapman.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Capital! At last I am classed as a VIP

IT'S a funny old world. Every week I write a few words here, in the hope it will amuse and entertain some of you, or maybe make you think.

Of course, I know, it won't actually change anything, and certainly not influence your opinion on any subject.

Or at least I hope it won't, I would really hate that. Because while I might like airing my opinions, I really know that it matters very little what I think about these things. I am really not important.

Which is strange, because I recently returned from holiday to receive a glossy card telling me that is exactly what I am. Important that is.

The card was sent to me by a well-known local car dealer, informing me that I had been invited to its "forthcoming VIP Showroom Event" – as opposed to a "previous VIP Showroom Event", which would presumably have involved some kind of time-travel.

And why do the words "showroom" and "event" need capital letters?

It is the bane of our trade how some people think that a few strategically but incorrectly placed block letters can somehow make something seem more important.

It doesn't. It just makes the writer look illiterate.

Anyway, if I telephone the showroom's VIP booking desk, yes, they've got one of those as well, I will get a VIP pass which will allow me into the VIP Showroom Event. According to the literature, "this will be no ordinary event", and VIP passes are strictly limited.

And what exactly does it involve? Well having read the card in great detail, I have come to the conclusion that if I decide to take up the offer, I will get the opportunity to buy a car.

Never felt so important in my life.

❒ ❒ ❒

MIND you, it's a strange world, selling cars. I remember test driving a car back in 2003, going away to think about it and returning a short while later to do the deal. Straight away, I was offered another test drive, and despite my protestations that this was not necessary, I was handed the keys and ushered into the driver's seat.

It was only when I was invited into the back office to sort on the minutiae that I spotted the whiteboard detailing the big fat commission they got for every test drive.

❒ ❒ ❒

THERE has been a lot of bad press about the mindless violence, nudity and general debauchery in the BBC's new costume drama Versailles. And I am horrified. I only went and missed it, didn't I?

Muhammad Ali seen during his visit to the West Midlands

Ali, in Dudley, with Buyrite Autoparts boss Terry Carvin, left

Boxing promoter, Ron Gray, from Cannock with Ali in the 1970s

Special times spent with 'the Greatest'

CARL JACKSON talks to West Midlanders lucky enough to have met Muhammad Ali and hear how he affected their lives

HE hailed himself as 'The Greatest' who 'shook up the world'. And those from the West Midlands who had the privilege to meet Muhammad Ali throughout his remarkable life have endorsed the claims made by the great man, who died last Friday.

Boxing promoter Ron Gray, from Cannock, got closer than most. In his own fighting days he featured on the undercard on both occasions Ali fought Henry Cooper – at Wembley in 1963 and in 1966 at Highbury.

He also met him numerous times afterwards throughout his promoting career.

Loveable

Mr Gray said: "When you ask people who the two most popular names are in the whole world they say Muhammad Ali and Nelson Mandela. They are both mentioned in the same breath.

"I met him on several occasions. He was just a lovely, lovely man. Absolutely different to the way he was when he came out with his outbursts. He was a quiet person actually but so loveable with the press. You would ask him a question and get a half-an-hour answer. He was absolutely brilliant and marvellous for boxing. It is a terrible shame."

And yet Ron's late brother Billy got to share a ring with the man who floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee. In 1966 he was drafted in to spar with Ali as he prepared to fight Brian London.

Paying tribute to his sibling after he lost his battle to cancer last year, Ron said at the time: "There seemed to be a link between our family and Ali. He's competed over here three times and I boxed on two of those bills, while Billy sparred with him for his fight on the other.

Cassius Clay, sparring with Walsall's Billy Gray in 1966 before he fought Brian London

"He got the call to go down to the Thomas A Becket gym in London and spend two days with Ali, before he fought Brian London. The strange thing was I spent a month up in Blackpool sparring with Brian at the time. I joked with Billy that I was softening him up for Ali."

In 1979 Ali made his first visit to the Midlands. During which time he was presented a commemorative belt in Birmingham, which was later bought by advertising guru Trevor Beattie, once of Wolverhampton.

But photobombing the handover was none other than Sir Lenny Henry who paid tribute to Ali calling him a 'titan' of boxing.

Tony Wilson, 55 and from Wolverhampton, was another to meet the man formerly known as Cassius Clay when he came to England.

Ali returned in 1983 stopping by at Wolverhampton's The Sheraton on Raglan Street among other fan-packed destinations in Birmingham, Dudley and Coventry.

Mr Wilson, who was an amateur boxing champion at the time and now teaches at Arena Gym in Willenhall, said: "I was very sad to hear he passed away. I met him in Handsworth. He stopped and asked who we were and started shadow boxing with us in the street. It was one of the highlights of my life. I went to bed that night and couldn't stop dreaming about it. He was very humble for what he achieved. If I can get a fighter with just a quarter of his skill I would consider myself blessed."

Businessman Terry Carvin was able to get Ali to open his new firm Buyrite Autoparts in Dudley during the 1983 visit.

Having met the boxer in America he agreed to pay him £3,000 to cut the ribbon at the unveiling while more than 2,000 screaming fans packed Hall Street outside. The 69-year-old from Kingswinford, said: "You could see the early signs of his problems were there. I could see that. But he was still all there and messing around sparring with people doing that sort of thing. He was doing a lot of talking to the fans. He must have been there a good four hours. A gypsy came in and forecast he was going to be shot. We've got a video of him saying 'they tried to get me but nobody's got me yet'."

Former boxer, Scott Murray, owner of Bar Sport in Cannock, has hosted some of boxing's biggest ever names for after-dinner speeches at the venue's Premier Suite lounge including the likes of Sugar Ray Leonard and Evander Holyfield.

While Ali has never been there himself four of his opponents Henry Cooper, Earnie Shavers, George Chuvalo and Ken Norton are among a stellar list to have entertained audiences in Cannock.

Mr Murray said: "They were all in awe of him. He was just an inspiring character. All the guys we have hosted who met him have said the same. A lot of them said he's the reason they took up boxing. He was Sugar Ray Leonard's hero. It's tremendous the amount of influence he has. I never met him. I do have a load of his memorabilia though. It is very sad. He was the greatest boxer that ever lived I don't think we'll see anyone greater."

Ali, who was world heavyweight champion a record three times, was equally if not more famous for his charm, wit, charisma, outrageous rhymes and outspoken views in projecting the Nation of Islam's ideology.

But his speed and flare in the ring defying the traditional attributes of a typical heavyweight inspired generations of boxers, including those born well after he had hung up his gloves only to commence one of his biggest and most enduring battles – with Parkinson's disease.

Tanny Khan, manager at Merridale Boxing Club in Wolverhampton, said he still uses videos of Ali to train upcoming fighters.

He said: "We have got pictures of him all over the place. Whenever we go on trips we have his DVDs on and just go through with the boxers how he used to fight. He was a big inspiration.. There will never be another Muhammed Ali."

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The way EU works is not democratic

WITH reference to the so-called Brexit debate I believe we are being subjected to a climate of fear and foreboding, mostly based on the fear of the unknown.

Financial predictions are based on anything but fact and embraced by so-called experts who struggle to produce accurate forecasts month on month.

They speak all to freely about the catastrophic effect that leaving the EU could have on Britain's trade, but seem to make no reference to the economic consequences of tit-for-tat tariffs/sanctions being imposed on goods destined for the UK from Germany, France and the rest of the EU. Do they seriously believe that the French and Germans in particular would be happy with that?

If people are dissatisfied with Britain's present relationship with the EU, they should ask themselves whether they think it will get any better if Britain stays in. If they do not believe it will improve, this is their one and only opportunity to do something about it.

The irony is that Britain fought in world wars to preserve its right to live in a democratic society, but the way the EU works, it is anything but democratic. Politicians who encourage us to stay in the EU should be ashamed for not giving credit to the hard working people of our country who have the will, the skills and the desire to take us all forward under our own steam.

It is time for us to put on one side any petty personal gains we may have and think seriously about the future of our country for the benefit of our children, and grandchildren, because they are the ones who it will affect most if we get this wrong.

G OAKLEY
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Will crime boss keep promises?

DAVID Jamieson needs to be congratulated on winning a second term of office as the Police & Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands'. So we will wait with bated breath to see if his pre-elections promises materialise.

If you remember, Mr Jamieson promised to increase police recruitment from 450 to 1,000 by 2017 (next year) along with all the latest IT equipment.

This pledge was made despite the austerity cuts that have been going on in the police forces up and down the country. These have led to 7,000 police being made redundant along with 5,000 PCSOs.

This is the Police & Crime Commissioner who agreed to close all of the police stations in the Midlands – and some have now closed with others to shut in the near future.

So Mr Jamieson, we are waiting for your promises.

B WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

One big exercise in social engineering

FOR too long we have been preached at by successive governments that this country needs foreign workers to do the jobs we are too lazy, greedy or not qualified enough to do.

Agriculture in this country would, we are told, no longer function without foreign labour. At the same time, the fire service, which does not suffer this lack of home grown labour, is too white and too male and needs more diversity.

Have successive governments been democratically elected to protect our country, culture and welfare, for the benefit of future generations or have they been elected to indulge themselves in social engineering?

It's true that in the history of these islands we have absorbed many people from other cultures who have integrated into our society and brought us benefits, but this happened slowly, giving our indigenous people time to assimilate and enabling migrants to fit into our way of life.

What has happened over the last 40 years, during our time in the Common Market and EU appears to be a dangerous exercise in social engineering by bureaucratic know-it-alls. If so, the world is in danger of becoming one big homogenised, politically correct, conglomeration of people.

B CROFT
Wall Heath

Relocation disaster for workforce

IT concerns me that manufacturing is rarely mentioned with reference to Brexit.

In pre-EU days it was not viable for small manufacturers to export to Europe, due to large amounts of paperwork and heavy tariffs on the goods involved.

Since the emergence of the European Union it is possible to export to them using a single invoice. It may be possible as 'outers' suggest to still trade with Europe. However their terms of trade are already established.

The choice is to pay large sums of money and accept free movement of EU nationals across their borders or pay a tariff of at least 11 per cent.

As many companies in the UK are foreign owned, a tariff on their goods would possibly result in their relocation to Europe itself. This of course would prove disastrous for the UK workforce.

G A PETERS
Brierley Hill

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Red Lion Street in the 1950s, where Geoff stayed at weekends with his grandparents, which is just around the corner from the Odeon and Beatties

The police and fire station in Red Lion Street in January, 1956, as mentioned by Geoff in his recollections

Geoff Leo is second from the left and in the woolly hat in this picture from about 1957. On the left is Sally Edes, and next to Geoff is John Hendley and then comes Tony Perry

Magical memories of an exciting childhood with an Italian flavour

MEMORY LANE

By Professor Carl Chinn

ALTHOUGH small in numbers, the Italians of Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham made a significant contribution to the region's social and economic life.

Their families arrived here from the late 19th century, when the economy in southern Italy collapsed and hundreds of thousands fled poverty.

Most of them headed for the USA, but a few came to Britain.

Prominent among those Italian Wulfrunians were the Marandolas and Leos, and Geoff Leo has written in with some of his memories of growing up in Wolverhampton.

"Dad worked in the ice cream, Percy Leo and Sons, still trading, in Thomas Street. He was the eldest son, William, or Bill to his wife, and Our Willie to his sisters. Percy was really Pasquale, a first generation immigrant from Italy who started the business before the Second World War from the front room of the family house in Graiseley Street. "Grandad Leo died just before I was born, the year of the Queen's accession, 1952, and the year dad and his brother bought their first ice cream van.

"Mum, Nan and Granddad, and Uncle Pat, whose family lived for a short while in the front room, were all from Reydon, Suffolk; a village outside the seaside town of Southwold.

"Dad was too young to serve when war broke out in 1939, but later joined the Army. His flat feet meant he was unable to march, so he was transferred from the infantry to the engineers and he became a specialist in bomb disposal. With the threat of invasion gone the British beaches which had been mined to defend against a German assault, now had to be cleared. Dad began in Norfolk, then commanded a party of Prisoners of War to do the job further south. He met my mum, Edna, and they married in 1946. Mum was only 18 and my big brother, Alan, was born the following year in Hurn Crag Road, Reydon.

Moving to Wolverhampton, dad got him a job at the Star Aluminium, where he worked happily till his retirement. The best of my weekend friends was Tony Perry, who lived next door.

Tony was a little older than me and an only child who has written extensively about our times together in his excellent historical work 'Of The River People'. I recall Saturday mornings best and our trips to the children's matinee clubs at the ABC or Odeon picture houses.

The Clifton, or "fleapit", opposite the ABC didn't cater for us and the Gaumont by the library appeared too posh for us kids. Ninepence was the cost of an excellent morning's entertainment. There'd be a couple of Loony Toons cartoons, some Pearl &Dean commercials, then a cliff-hanger, maybe Flash Gordon or Zorro before the interval.

With the usherettes busy dealing with queues of rowdy kids buying Kia Ora, Butterkist or a Jubbly, some of the more unscrupulous of the children would let their mates in via the emergency exits. The manager then invited children onto stage if it was their birthday, or if they had created something at school. Once I won third place for a piece of embroidery (I had no shame). Only three had gone up on stage and my prize was a torch.

During the main film the manager's voice came over the speaker, "Will the boy who won the torch please stop shining it on the screen!" The main event could be swashbuckling pirates, gun toting cowboys, whooping Indians or ray gun firing spacemen.

We would leave the cinema galloping and tapping our bottoms and emitting all sorts of sounds to indicate galloping hooves, machine guns or skidding tyres, but would instantly have to quieten down to enter Beatties. James Beattie's Department Store was the shining light of Wolverhampton, and was wonderful.

The Odeon, Wolverhampton – one of Geoff's favourite cinemas, which is still standing in Skinner Street

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Unsightly waste mound begins to shrink at last

A WASTE mountain that has dominated the skyline in Brierley Hill for seven years is gradually beginning to shrink.

The Environment Agency has been working to clear the rubbish that piled up on the former Refuse Derived Fuel site and blighted the lives of residents in Moor Street.

Diggers have been on site clawing away at the rubble, which includes bricks, wood, plastic and building material.

The Agency took action as it believed the rubbish posed a hazard to the public. Workers are around half way through the clean-up project which is expected to be completed in the autumn.

The waste mountain, which once reached 40ft, became a nightmare for residents and led to a legal battle over the former owners' refusal to shift it. Company director Robert McNaughton even served jail term for failing to clean up.

Now it appears the nightmare is coming to an end.

Brierley Hill councillor Rachel Harris, who led the campaign for the rubbish to be removed, said she was delighted to finally see the rubbish pile reducing.

She said: "It's really clear that the owners have stuck to their agreement and things are progressing at the pace we expected them to.

"We have won the battle and the rubbish is finally going."

It is hoped plans to build flats on the RDF site will be resurrected once the rubbish is cleared. A scheme to build two modern housing blocks containing 94 flats were unveiled last year but stalled as a developer could not be attracted over fears they might be landed with the clean-up bill.

Alistair Hilditch-Brown from the Environment Agency next to the rubbish mound

Park reopens after revamp

A PARK in Stourbridge will be officially unveiled this weekend following the completion of a £3.1m raft of improvements.

The revamped Mary Stevens Park will be open to the public for the first time tomorrow (Friday).

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, will recreate the Queen's 1957 visit to the park by driving through it in a vintage car.

Grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund made the restoration work possible. Improvements have included work to the park gates, war memorial, bandstand and pool, as well as the creation of a new cafe and toilet facilities.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "I'm delighted that the park is to be fully open again."

A royal market and food fair runs from 2pm tomorrow until 5pom on Sunday and there will be a free to enter dog show on Saturday from 1pm.

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Exhibition at church to crown Queen's birthday

AN MP will launch an en exhibition chronicling key events in Sedgley and Dudley during the Queen's lifetime.

The Sedgley E II R 90 exhibition is being staged at All Saints' Church Vicar Street, Sedgley, from tomorrow (Friday) until Sunday, featuring personal reminiscences and press cuttings.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin will open the event at 10am, which will kick off with singing by choirs from St Chad's, Cotwall End and Woodsetton Primary Schools.

On Saturday there will be organ recitals by Martin Platts, while Sedgley Morris Men will perform in the afternoon.

The exhibition covers the period of the Queen's life through the personal reminiscences of her subjects who live in Gornal and Sedgley – events on the wider Dudley horizon are also captured. The starting point is more than 80 eye witness accounts of events during her reign – some are important events in individuals' lives, others are key events in the local community and nationally.

In addition the period from Her Majesty's birth in 1926 to her accession in 1952 is covered through research carried out through articles taken from the archives.

Children from Junior Church and Youth Group at All Saints' have prepared displays covering 2012 to the present.

Co-ordinator Martin Roberts said: "This projects stems from research began four years ago where I asked people around Sedgley for their storiesfor 60 years of the Queen's reign. I was struck by the amount of brilliant stories people were offering."

Martin Jones promotes the exhibition at Sedgley All Saints Church which centres on the Queen's life

Enriching the lives of animals at zoo

THREE Dudley Zoo keepers have joined forces to establish a committee aimed at enriching the lives of animals.

Adam Wrench, Sian-Leigh Simner and Jess Jones meet once a month to devise and construct enrichment activities for the creatures housed at the attraction.

Senior Keeper Adam said: "By setting up this committee we're aiming to provide more and varied enrichment for the animals, which we'll rate and review.

"We also want to create an informative portfolio, which will be particularly useful for junior members of staff who will be able to access the folder and see what we've done for certain species in the past and if it proved successful or not."

The committee, who will build the activities themselves, are also contacting companies who can help by donating such items as hessian sacks or hanging baskets.

The zoo has also updated its Amazon wish-list.

Adam said: "Since we launched the online wish-list we've received some great things. We've now updated the list and tailored it to items we'd like to use for certain enrichment activities for particular species."

Hospital dates are missed by thousands

MORE than 1,500 people a month have missed an appointment with Dudley's NHS Trust in the past year, new figures show.

Every time a patient fails to turn up to an appointment, it costs the hospital trust an average of around £70 and a total of 18,884 patients have missed outpatient appointments in the past 12 months.

By Clare Butler

Paula Clark, Chief Executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital and the Guest Outpatient Centre as well as Corbett Outpatient Centre in Stourbridge, said: "When a patient doesn't attend an appointment on the day, it's too late to offer their slot to somebody else.

"If patients can't attend, it's really important that they let us know so we can reschedule for another time and offer the slot to somebody else who needs it.

Specialities

"We are working hard with our patients to reduce the number of Did Not Attends and have introduced a text message service which reminds patients a few days before they are due for an appointment. In a number of specialities we also use a booking system where patients choose an appointment time and date convenient for them to avoid the need to rearrange at a later date."

A total of 4,836 people missed two appointments over the past year — 188 more than the year before.

However, there was a slight decrease in people missing three appointments from 1,516 in 2014/15 to 1,511 last year.

Some 496 people missed five or more appointments over the past 12 months, up from 444 during 2014/15.

These figures come as it was revealed last September that patients failed to turn up to more than 14,000 appointments at Dudley's hospitals in just six months.

Costs include the staffing resource wasted and the cost of additional letters and time taken to reschedule missed slots.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2014, a total of 40,719 appointments were also missed.

The bill at Dudley Group comes as bosses work to balance the books in the wake of funding cuts.

Bosses have been reviewing the positions of temporary staff, those on fixed-term contracts, and bank and agency workers.

They have also been looking at reducing overtime and recruitment to non-clinical vacancies to claw back costs.

Hospital passports for dementia carers

A NEW initiative will give carers of patients living with dementia and other long-term conditions the chance to visit loved ones in hospital at any time.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has launched the John's Campaign as part of its plans to make the hospital more dementia friendly.

The campaign was founded by Worcester-born author Nicci Gerrard, who was concerned by how restricted visiting times were when her father, Dr John Gerrard, spent time in hospital.

It was launched with the introduction of carers' passports, which gave designated access to wards at any time.

Dawn Wardell, chief nurse for trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said: "We have put many initiatives in place to support patients living with dementia. Supporting John's Campaign with carers' passports is another step to improving their experience in our care."

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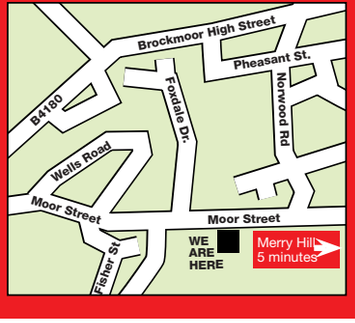

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Parks to host band concerts

PEOPLE can enjoy the sounds of an uplifting summer concert in a Quarry Bank park later this month.

Stevens Park will welcome the West Midlands Concert Band to its bandstand on Sunday from 2.30 to 5pm as part of Dudley Council's annual programme of free band concerts, this year supported by the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton.

The West Midlands Concert Band is a volunteer community band, based in Wolverhampton. They will perform music that people will know and love from classic movies as well as marches and classical works. People are encouraged to bring along deckchairs, blankets and picnics to enjoy the afternoon.

Later in June, there will also be a band concert at Himley Hall and Park. BJ Concert Band will perform a foot-tapping ensemble of swing music, marches and music from film and stage on June 19 from 2.30 to 5pm.

Charity climbers ready to again conquer Ben Nevis for charities

A THIRD annual climb of Ben Nevis has been launched to honour a Dudley peace campaigner and charity fundraiser while raising money for charity.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has assembled the biggest team yet for this year's climb in honour of Bert Bissell on August 11.

More than 20 charity fundraisers from Dudley will be led by Mr Austin to the top of Britain's highest mountain. They include the borough's new mayor, Councillor Mo Hanif, deputy mayor, Councillor Dave Tyler, councillors Keiran Casey and Steve Waltho, Mr Bissell's lifelong friend Astley Blake and campaigners Damian Corfield, Shaz Saleem and Steve Rayner.

The team on the summit of Ben Nevis last year

The trek follows a successful climb last August, which raised £9,000 for causes in Dudley.

All funds raised by this year's climb will go to the new mayor's charities, the Friends of Alfie Johnson, which helps children with disabilities, also the Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living supporting local people with disabilities and Diabetes UK.

Mr Austin said: "I'm delighted that the number of local people taking part in our climb and making a donation is growing every year.

"It goes to show the enduring legacy of Bert's work in the community. He was a great friend of my family and I remember him well. He was a legendary figure and an inspiration to so many of us.

"I've often thought we ought to do something in his memory and climbing the mountain he conquered so many times to raise money for local charities seems a fitting tribute.

"It's an honour to be joined by Dudley's new Mayor, Councillor Mo Hanif, as well as a whole team of local councillors and fundraisers."

Birthday boys on party list

TWO men from Sedgley are finalists for Britain's unsung heroes with a chance of winning a surprise Pop Up Party.

Jeff Worsey and Leonard Smith nominated by Jeff's daughter, Caroline, are two of the 25 finalists to be showcased across social media until the end of June in a bid to win a surprise Pop Up Party.

Caroline said: "They are celebrating their 90th and 70th birthdays in June this year. As they reach these big milestones it would be great to have a joint garden party like we did 10 years ago for their 80th and 60th birthdays."

The nationwide campaign by pork pie manufacturers Pork Farms gives recognition to everyday heroes in the community.

Last year, one of the five winners from across the UK who had a surprise party included nine-year-old charity fundraiser Louis Jonson from Tettenhall Wood.

Statue is expected to fetch £8k at auction

The statue, likely to sell for more than £5,000 at auction

IT may only stand at 54 centimetres tall but a bronze statue dating back to the 1800s and going under the hammer at an auction in the Black Country has got quite a hefty price tag.

La Danse is a bronze study by the artist Jean Baptiste Carpeaux (1827-1875), a French sculptor and painter during the Second Empire under Napoleon III.

It as made for the facade sculpture on the Opera Garnier, Paris, signed and dated 1869.

The art work, which is 54cm tall, is up for auction with an anticipated price tag ranging from £5,000 to £8,000.

Promises

It is being sold at Fieldings Auction House in Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, on Saturday.

It follows the sale last month at the same auction house of another rare figure. Demetre Chiparus – 'Tender Promises' – a 1920s cold painted bronze, ivory figure of two kneeling harlequins. That figure sold for a whopping £20,500.

Christina memorial rock fest cancelled

A MEMORIAL concert for a Halesowen schoolgirl killed in 2013 has been cancelled but organisers promise a bigger festival will be held in her memory next year.

The concert in memory of Christina Edkins was due to take place in Birmingham last weekend but will be held in Wolverhampton in October 2017.

Christina was stabbed by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane on a bus in Birmingham as she was on her way to Leasowes High School. He was detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act

Around 15 rock and metal bands from across the country were due to play at The Rainbow Venues in Digbeth but due to 'unforeseen circumstances' the event had to be cancelled. Organiser Dave Williamson said: "Next year will be a different story as Remembrance fest is being rebranded and made a whole lot bigger. It will be known as Sempiternal Festival and will be held at Wolverhampton Civic."

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Spray paint park warnings over menace of dog mess

A NEW scheme aimed at tackling dog fouling has been launched across Dudley following a successful pilot scheme at parks in Kingswinford and Wall Heath.

Dudley Council will be spray painting warning messages in parks with the biggest problems with dog mess.

The council has launched an initiative which will see messages stencilled with non-permanent paint on paths telling people to pick up after their pets. The type of paint used will wash away over time.

The scheme will target parks and open spaces in a bid to encourage more people to clean up after their pooches.

Dog fouling can lead to fines of up to £1,000 and prosecution through the courts.

Target

Parks in Wall Heath and Kingswinford parks have been used to pilot the scheme and more sites are due to be added to the programme to target dog fouling hot spots.

The sign sees the image of a dog with a lead, along with the caption 'Clean It Up!'

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "I'm sure the vast majority of people clean up after their pets. People have a right to walk along the street and play in parks without fear of treading in disgusting mess left by dogs.

"We would rather people cleaned up after their dogs than us having to prosecute them.

"The stencils do not permanently mark the pavements. They are environmentally friendly and hopefully will be a good reminder for people."

Councillor Patrick Harley, Leader of the Dudley Conservative Group, said: "I am supportive of the scheme but we need to make sure we place the signs in the right area, appropriate places such as flat and smooth surfaces."

Dog fouling can be reported to Dudley Council by calling 0300 5552345 or email dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk

Gold medal triumph at Chelsea show

NURSERY owner John Massey struck gold at the Chelsea Flower Show.

It is the first time the hepaticas have been shown as a single exhibit at the famous show. The exquisite spring-flowering plants were grown by Ashwood Nurseries in Kingswinford.

The 67-year-old nursery owner, who has more than 50 RHS gold medals to his name, said: "I've always dreamed of exhibiting hepaticas at Chelsea. I really wanted to show everyone the charm, beauty and diversity of their flowers and foliage."

Ashwood Nurseries general manager Karina Gilbert said: "It's been a few years since we exhibited at Chelsea so it's a happy return."

"Hardly anyone grows hepaticas anymore because to takes three years for them to flower and make them saleable.

"When John said he was going to grow them, we all looked at each other and thought 'no way.'

"For Chelsea, John held them back in a freezer from an early stage and then brought them out for a while and then put them back in cold storage. No one knew how the plants would react so it's been a real experiment but one that's paid off."

Getting ready to rock at Romstock

Acts and organisers get ready for this Saturday's village music festival at Romsley, which promises to be the best yet

A VILLAGE music festival returns this weekend with a bumper line-up of entertainment.

Organisers say the line up for the Romstock Festival is the best they have assembled for the annual event held in Romsley, near Halesowen. On Saturday it returns for the fifth year.

Highlights include tribute bands, folk and soul acts and DJs.

Alongside the music, there will be food stalls, bars and activities such as bouncy castles.

Tribute acts Okasis and The Jam DRC feature along with folk rockers Colin Hall's Gypsy Blood and ska/soul band Rudi and the Revolvers. Stourbridge's Esther Turner, Izzy the Push, The Starving Dogs and an Elvis act will also entertain the crowds, along with Stourbridge DJ Paul Foster.

Band co-ordinator Mark Moran said: "This is the best-ever Romstock line up and there is truly something for everyone."

Romstock was originally launched in 2012.

Organiser Dave Powell said: "Last year was our best yet with some 1,500 people attending. We are hoping that this year will surpass last and we have a few surprises planned."

It takes place on the village playing field, off St Kenelms Road, with the first band on stage at 12.15pm. The event ends around 8pm

Advance tickets are £7 adults (£10 on the day) and £2.50 for children. A family ticket (two adults and two children) is £15. Tickets can be bought from The Spar in Romsley. All profits go to projects in the parish.

Rare chance to visit hall with famous garden

A SHROPSHIRE hall famous for its garden will be opening to the public this weekend, one of only a few opportunities to visit it this year.

Grade I listed Morville Hall, between Bridgnorth and Much Wenlock, will be open tomorrow (Friday) and on Satyrdat.

The hall, which has been part of the National Trust since 1965, is a stone-built family home from Elizabethan times but in the mid 18th century the hall was increased to three storeys by Arthur Weaver, MP for Bridgnorth. Elizabethan features are still visible.

The gardens are, for many visitors, the main attraction and have been the subject of a 15-year project by Katherine Swift, who wrote The Morville Hours, a popular book about her experiences taking on the garden and its history.

House steward Rhiannon Bramer said: "It's such a pleasure to open up Morville for visitors. The property is much loved, both by the family who live there today and local people."

Members of the public are welcome to visit Morville Hall tomorrow and Saturday and it will also be open on July 9, September 9 and 10. Opening times are 12 noon to 5.00pm, with last entry at 4.30pm.

Refreshments will be available from the nearby St Gregory the Great church.

Morville can be combined with a visit to a neighbouring National Trust property Dudmaston Hall, at Quatt between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster, which has attractive grounds and historic art. Dudmaston is open from 11am Sunday to Thursday.

Pub demolition to make way for homes

AROUND 18 houses are proposed to be built on the site of a pub in Kingswinford. The development would see the empty The Summerhouse pub, in The Portway, demolished to make way for the homes.

A design and access statement says: "There will be two rows of housing on site. Each plot will have enough space for a private rear garden and a driveway with parking space for at least two cars."

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Noah is backing Big Bandage Day

A BRAVE young patient got all wrapped up and launch Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity's fourth annual summer fundraiser – The Big Bandage.

Three-year-old Noah Dixey, who has a condition called Alagille Syndrome– a rare genetic disorder that affects his liver, heart, kidneys and skin – dressed up in bandages to encourage others to join in on Friday, July 8 and make a donation.

Following his diagnosis at six-months-old, Noah has had five operations to help ease his condition. He has to visit the children's hospital every six weeks and takes 16 different types of medication daily.

Mother

Supporters can choose which ward, service or department their money goes to, meaning they'll be helping to shape the future of Birmingham Children's Hospital and make a real difference to the treatment, care and support it offers for generations to come.

Noah's mother Gemma said: "Despite his condition, Noah's a typical little boy who loves cars, trains, snails and slugs, so he really enjoyed popping on some bandages to help launch The Big Bandage and we'll be getting involved on the day itself too.

"We love the children's hospital and cannot thank the staff enough for their incredible care. As a family, we're delighted to be able to give something back and we know first-hand exactly how life-changing fundraising can be."

The Big Bandage is one of the hospital's largest annual events, which has raised more than £150,000 since it launched in 2013.

The Big Bandage hopes to encourage celebrities, businesses, patients, staff, schools and community groups to take partMiranda Williams, public fundraising manager at Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity, said: "We are very delighted to have the support of Noah to launch our favourite fundraiser of the year and as he has proved, getting involved couldn't be easier.

"Whether you wrap your arm, your leg, your boss or your teacher, please join us from now until Friday, July 8 and make a big difference with your Big Bandage to the brave patients treated at our hospital."

To get involved with this year's campaign, visit www.bch.org.uk/big-bandage or text BANDAGE to 70099 to donate £2.

Three-year-old Noah Dixey, who has a rare genetic disorder, is helping Birmingham Children's Hospital

Road congestion costs £2bn a year in West Midlands

CONGESTION costs the West Midlands £2 billion a year, a new report has claimed.

More delivery vans on the road because of online shopping and Uber cabs have been blamed for exacerbating the problem by the Greener Journeys report.

Centro is set to spend £150 million on buses in the region over the next five years providing cleaner buses, smartcard tickets and road changes to speed up journeys and make buses more reliable.

But transport chiefs have warned congestion is hitting the bus sector hard with average speed in the busiest cities dropping to less than 10mph.

Councillor John McNicholas, chairman of the Integrated Transport Authority's Transport Delivery Committee, which oversees Centro, said: "Congestion stifles economic growth, pollutes our air and generally lowers the quality of life for the people of the West Midlands.

"That's why we are working hard to deliver an attractive and fully integrated transport network that makes it easier than ever for people to leave their cars at home and travel in a greener way."

Claire Haigh, chief executive of Greener Journeys, added: "A fully-loaded double decker bus can take 75 cars off the road.

"Giving buses more priority on the roads and introducing contactless payments would make journeys faster and more reliable, encouraging more people to leave their cars at home and easing traffic to benefit all road users."

Football legend's daughter criticises FA

THE daughter of Albion legend Jeff Astle says the way the Football Association has dragged their heels over research into head injuries is 'inexcusable'.

Nearly two years after Dawn Astle met FA representatives, the 48-year-old who lost her father to the consequences of heading footballs was this week due to meet Dr Charlotte Chaury, the FA's new head of performance medicine.

By Matt Wilson

Ms Astle is hoping to finally get answers to the questions she gave to the FA in 2014 which they promised to pass on to football's global governing body Fifa.

But she's not optimistic after she received an FA response saying her questions would be sent to Fifa 'imminently', more than a year after she was told they would forward the request for an independent study.

Indefensible

"We're nearly two years on from meeting the FA in August 2014, and we're no further on in regards to the research," said Ms Astle. "I thought that was inexcusable and indefensible. The lack of respect that showed to all those players and families who have watched their loved ones stripped of all human nature was beyond words.

"I'm very frustrated, very tired, and sick of these empty gestures and excuses."

FA chairman Greg Dyke responded to Ms Astle this year with an apology after it emerged that four of the eight surviving players of England's 1966 World Cup winning team are suffering memory problems.

The Astle family have been campaigning for research into head injuries in football since Jeff Astle's death was judged to be as a result of heading heavy footballs.

"I know the guidelines have been put in for head injuries but that's not what this is about, it's about long-term research," she said.

"Dad's inquest was 14 years ago, the coroner said his job had killed him, we didn't say it.

"Fourteen years, and none of those questions have been answered, it's shocking.

A spokesperson for the FA highlighted their new guidelines for head injuries released in November 2015.

The spokesperson explained the decision to defer it to Fifa by saying: "If the FA acts alone, the findings are less powerful and more likely to result in vague conclusions."

OAP in 20ft ladder fall

A MAN in his 70s was airlifted to hospital after falling 20ft from a ladder. The incident happened on Pensnett Road in Brierley Hill, at 11.30am on Friday.

An ambulance and the Midlands Air Ambulance from Cosford attended. The man, who ambulance staff said suffered 'a serious chest injury as well as a facial injury' was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Say g'day to the zoo's Aussie arrivals

Feeding time for the Australian rainbow lorikeets, the colourful birds are part of the latest attraction at Dudley Zoo

COLOURFUL birds from the other side of the world are settling into their new home in the Black Country and are able to fly free in Dudley Zoo's new £40,000 Lorikeet Lookout exhibit.

Visitors can feed them from pots of a sweet nectar, made up by the zoo's keepers each day. The mixture of sugar, honey, golden syrup, black treacle and cod liver oil, makes up the majority of the Australian rainbow lorikeets' diet.

The enclosure was formerly home to monkeys which have been moved to another part of the Castle Hill site.

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "We've taken the building back to housing birds, as that is what it worked best for and we're thrilled to introduce a new species to Dudley Zoo and a new interactive element for visitors. The rainbow lorikeets look absolutely stunning and we know they work very well in walkthrough exhibits."

Author's plea to find relatives of beauty photographer Tom

HE was the David Bailey of the beauty queen contest world, regularly travelling from the Black Country to snap seaside competitions in their 1960s heyday.

Now author Ian Aitch is trying to trace relatives of Wednesbury photographer Tom Rose for a book and exhibition he is putting together about the history of beauty queens in Margate, Kent.

He is hoping to find relatives of Mr Rose, a former secretary of Wednesbury Photographic Club in the 1960s, who used to travel down to the seaside town to photograph the contestants every year.

Ian said: "I am working on a project about history of beauty queens in Margate. My project will be in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University who have a big photographic archive. I am searching for living relations of Tom Rose and born in around 1903. In the picture (right) he was 63 years old.

"Apparently he travelled to Margate each year to photograph beauty queens and I would love to see some of his work or find someone who can lead me further on my journey. He had been coming to Margate for the last 20 years before his picture was taken. By coincidence, there is also a beauty queen from Walsall, called Joan Sadler, who had a double win the following year in Margate. I would like to find out more about her too."

Photographer Tom Rose in action in '66

Ian, who is also an artist and journalist and has written for national newspapers, says his 'artistic social history project' will celebrate the rich cultural past of Margate and the surrounding area.

"I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of beauty show contestants from the 1950s to the 1980s," he said.

"I've also been thankful for the help of their children and grandchildren."

Ian said he didn't plan to record a history of beauty queens in Margate, but he started working on it after his previous project, called Cachet in Margate, he worked on in the seaside town. He said: "When I was working on my 2011 project Cachet in Margate I found that every road led to a story about them. Cachet was a visual and oral history of subcultures in the town and I created work that was shown in Turner Contemporary, putting local mods, rockers, punks, skinheads and rockabillies on the walls of the gallery.

"But as I sought out members of the public to speak to I often found myself speaking to a former Miss Westbrook or Miss Teen Queen."

If anyone has any information, please contact Ian on 01622 322077 or email margate@my-beauty.co.uk

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Downsize without any compromise

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

TAKING the big step to downsize your home is not an easy decision for anyone to make, but for Brian Roberts, the decision has proved to be the right one, after moving into McCarthy and Stone's Sanderson Court in Hagley in December 2015.

Brian said: "I've lived in the area for years, so when I saw that McCarthy and Stone were building in Hagley, I knew it was the right development for me.

"I've settled in very quickly, and it felt like home straight away.

"Hagley's excellent location is extremely convenient, and the best part about it is that retiring here means that you really can enjoy the best of both worlds.

"I still drive, but don't need to – a selection of fantastic restaurants are just a short walk away from Sanderson Court along with a range of essential amenities.

"What's more, the local railway station is just a 10 minute walk away from my new apartment – meaning that I can be in the hustle and bustle of city life in Birmingham in under half an hour.

Brian Roberts made the move to Sanderson Court, Hagley, in December

Benefits

"Before moving, the upkeep of my previous property had become too much. That's one of the main benefits of life here – with all of the maintenance taken care of by the reliable and dedicated team, I'm now able to devote my time to the things that matter most.

"After rattling around in my bungalow by myself, the contrast of having a vibrant and established community around me here at Sanderson Court is fantastic.

"Aside from catching up at our regular coffee mornings, we're also looking to plan trips out and about to see the local area and attractions – there's never a dull moment at Sanderson Court!"

Sanderson Court comprises a stylish mix of 44 spacious one, two and three bedroom apartments, aimed exclusively at the over 60s.

Boasting picturesque views of the Abberleys, Sanderson Court forms part of McCarthy and Stone's exclusive new Platinum Range.

Built to the highest standard, all apartments feature underfloor heating, oak veneered doors and high-spec kitchens, reflecting the attention to detail that has seen McCarthy and Stone awarded a 5-star rating for customer satisfaction eleven years in a row.

Sanderson Court comprises a stylish mix of 44 spacious one, two and three bedroom apartments, aimed exclusively at the over 60s

Facilities include a stunning homeowners' lounge, beautifully landscaped gardens and a convenient guest suite.

The development also benefits from its very own house manager, who ensures the smooth-running of the development, a security entrance system, plus 24-hour emergency call points for added peace of mind for both homeowners and their families.

Brian concludes: "I've really settled in at Sanderson Court, and it felt like home almost immediately.

"I can finally relax and enjoy my retirement."

With apartments available from £225,950 and part exchange available, retirees interested in Retirement Living in Hagley are invited to call 0800 201 4741, or visit the website at www.mccarthyandstone.co.uk

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Thousands pack the cite centre's Queen Square for the 80's Fun Fest 2016

Walking on sunshine as city turns back time for 80s festival

THOUSANDS of people took to the streets of Wolverhampton city centre as the 80s Fun Fest came to Queen Square.

Families filled the city centre to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, before a host of 80s stars took to the stage on the evening.

The event, the first of its kind and organised by Wolverhampton Business Improvement District, kicked off with an appearance from children's entertainer Mr Bloom, who arrived to huge cheers from youngsters in the crowd.

Visitors, young and old, packed into deckchairs in front of a stage while the television favourite kept children entertained with his musical fun. Elsewhere, people enjoyed fairground rides and the two beer tents.

In the evening, live music filled the air as a host of 80s stars including Carol Decker, of T'Pau, Wolverhampton soul legend Jaki Graham, Sonia and Katrina Leskanich, of The Waves fame, took to the stage.

The event also appeared to pass trouble-free and West Midlands Police said they had no record of arrests in Queen Square during the event.

Cherry Shine, from Wolverhampton BID said: "It is an event to attract footfall into the city centre and to encourage people to enjoy the beautiful city that we have."

Kicking off the evening show was Kelly Wilde, who looked every inch the rocker dressed in leather, and belted out classics including Holding Out For A Hero, It's Raining Men, Hot Stuff and Lady Marmalade.

Classics

Up next was Hazell Dean who got the crowds moving with her rendition of Make This A Night To Remember, while Brother Beyond star Nathan Moore turned back the clock with The Harder I Try and a rousing version of Uptown Funk.

However, it was Jaki Graham who stole the show as her huge soulful voice belted out classics such as Step Right Up, Could It Be I'm Falling In Love and Band of Gold.

Sonia was up next, and looking every inch the 80s pop princess with a cream and gold playsuit and high ponytail, also kept crowds entertained with her Eurovision hit Better The Devil You Know, but another highlight was Carol Decker, who dropped the f-word twice following a mix-up with her tracks.

Accompanied by a guitarist she brought a real festival feel, pleasing the crowds with T'Pau hits, including Secret Garden, Valentine and Heart and Soul.

And the Katrina Leskanich rounded off the night with sing-a-long favourites including River Deep Mountain High, her 1997 Eurovision winner Love Shine A Light and Walking on Sunshine.

Among those enjoying the fun was Carly Birchell, aged 36, from Penn, who was the show with her husband Chris, also 36 and children Noah, three and Toby, one.

She said: "It's a really good event. Anything that brings people in is good for the city centre."

Matthew Martin, 33, a health worker from Chapel Ash, was at the festival with his daughter Angel, five and nephew Lucas, one. He said: "I think Wolverhampton should have more things like this."

Birmingham soul singer Jaki Graham wowed the crowds

Popular Carol Decker brought a real festival feel

Sonia was looking every inch the 80s pop princess

Campaign wins over call for double yellow lines

DOUBLE yellow lines will be introduced in an accident-plagued road in Halesowen following a long campaign.

Council bosses have agreed to carry out the safety measure in Church Street after calls for action by concerned residents.

Several smashes and claims of speeding in the road, which is partially one way, had left people 'living in fear'. This is made worse by a tight junction leading into Nimmings Road, according to Councillor Karen Shakespeare.

Dudley traffic officers were called to the spot in March but insisted that action could not be taken for at least a year due to the junction only scoring 22 points on its danger rating system. The criteria is 25,

But following a residents' petition, officers have now agreed to put double yellow lines on the road over the next couple of years. The scheme has been added to the work due to be carried out from next April.

Church Street in Halesowen where double yellow lines will be painted to boost safety

Councillor Shakespeare, who represents Halesowen North , said it was a relief that action would be taken.

It means that with the petition and the fact we didn't give up we will get what we want in 2017/18," she aaid,

She added: "Church Street has been subject to speeding cars and several cars being smashed into. It has left people fearing for their safety, especially if they have children or are elderly. The road is narrow and tight and the one end has a one-way system from Long Lane and the other is two-way from Nimmings Road and that is where we have been pushing for the double yellow lines."

A one-way system was installed on Church Street in 2010.

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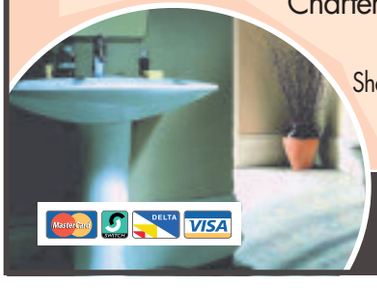

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Feeling Good with the Queen of Swing

Clare Teal, Wolverhampton Grand

THE UK's undisputed queen of swing, Clare Teal, brought her 12 O'Clock Tales to the Grand for a kind of homecoming in Wolverhampton on Sunday.

12 O'Clock Tales is the name of her latest album, a collection of British and American songbook – mostly – standards which she recorded with the prestigious Hallé Orchestra. The Hallé probably would not fit onto the Grand stage but her own top-notch 18-piece band, including the superb jazz pianist Jason Rebello and conductor/arranger Guy Barker, more than made up.

The warm and witty Yorkshire-born singer and BBC broadcaster recalled her first proper gig had been at the Lighthouse cinema/arts centre bar, when she was a Walsall-based Wolverhampton Polytechnic arts student.

On a warm night more attuned to outdoor music, her two-hour show was a treat for a small but dedicated audience of jazz fans. Her smooth-as-caramel vocal was on song for tributes to Peggy Lee, Doris Day, Blossom Dearie and Ella Fitzgerald.

Highlights included her version of Billy Strayhorn's Lush Life and Landesman and Wolf's Spring Can Really Hang You Up The Most. Clare Teal and her little big band left us feeling, as the title to one of the songs says, Feeling Good.

Leon Burakowski

Distinctive voice never forgotten

We've Only Just Begun, Wolverhampton Grand

SHE may have died 33 years ago but that magical voice of Karen Carpenter will never be forgotten.

This was proven by We've Only Just Begun – though ironically this was the last performance of its three-year UK tour.

The Grand was packed as Toni Lee and her brilliant band took us through all the hits that we remember so well. Maybe she was not quite spot on in some of the songs but who realistically could actually replicate that deep, stunningly melodic and distinctive voice?

Films on a huge screen on stage took us through the years with pictures of her with song-writing brother Richard and also told the story of her sad end – dying at just 32 after an eating disorder took its toll.

But the legacy she left behind is still celebrated. She sang with great passion, not really getting there with songs like Solitaire but almost perfect on Rainy Days and Mondays and Desperado.

Sue Attwater

REVIEWS

Backstage at the Grand with the Hilarity Gala's comedians, supporting Central Youth Theatre

Hit and miss humour but youth theatre gains from gala

Hilarity Charity Gala, Wolverhampton Grand

CHARITY may have been the aim, but hilarity was the name – it's just a shame no one told Adam Riches. Sadly, his Sean Bean routine raised barely a chuckle from me at the start of the second set.

In fairness, he was sandwiched between the best two acts of the night, Wolverhampton's own Pappys and Joe Lycett.

Two scheduled acts, Nish Kumar and Ivo Graham couldn't make it, yet the show still managed to run three hours, compered commendably by Daniel Kitson. Despite a speech impediment, he mocked his own affliction. Impractical Jokers star Joel Dommett raised a laugh or two as he kicked off the main set, before a weird set from Spencer Jones.

Pappys, though, were the real stars. The trio are former members of the Central Youth Theatre – the gala's beneficiaries – and their clever sketches brought the house down. These included a Computer Haka rendition and one routine that the audience was twice led to believe had the wrong music put to the moves.

In Lycett, a real crowd-pleaser ended the show, but charity was the real winner.

Mark Shipp

U-turn as Gazza will face charge over 'joke'

IN a U-turn Paul Gascoigne is to be charged with racially aggravated abusive behaviour after a joke he cracked on stage in Wolverhampton backfired.

The troubled soccer star has been summoned to appear at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court on June 17 when he will be formally charged with the alleged offence.

The shock news comes after a last minute change of mind by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) who had initially decided that he should not be prosecuted over the incident. It was the second change of mind by lawyers involved with the case.

The CPS officially informed Gazza of the decision not to take him to court just over a month ago but his manager has now been told in a phone call of the change of mind.

Consider

It came after a third CPS lawyer was asked to consider the case under rules which allow a victim or complainant to seek a review of a decision not to charge.

As a result it was ruled that the previous decision was incorrect and there should be a prosecution. Lawyers have spent months considering information collected during a West Midlands Police investigation into a complaint about the star's conduct during the 'Evening With Gazza' show at the Civic Hall last November.

It is believed to have concentrated on a 'joke' the former England football star made during the show about a black security guard whom he spotted in a darkened corner of the stage and said he could not tell 'if he is smiling or not.'Witnesses reported that the comment was met with an audible gasp by the audience.

Paul Gascoigne, seen performing on stage, is to be charged

Festival 14 plays in 48 hours

THE world's quickest theatre festival is coming to Wolverhampton for two days. 14/48 Wolverhampton originates from Seattle and showcases 14 plays over a 48-hour period.

The project is aimed at engaging new audiences, giving a platform for both emerging and experienced artists and theatre-makers.

The two day event tomorrow and Saturday is at The Arena Theatre and during that time 14 plays will be written, directed, scored, designed, rehearsed and performed. A team of 75 artists from across the Midlands, the UK and Seattle are involved, producing seven premiere plays per evening.

Neil Reading, producer of 14/48 Wolverhampton, said: "14/48 allows us to give local emerging artists an opportunity to demonstrate their skills against the clock."

Performances are at 8pm and 10.30pm, priced at £5-£7or £8-£10 for both nights. Go to www.arena.wlv.ac.uk or call 01902 321321.

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Breath of fresh Eyre

Belle of the ballet
Page 23

Grumpy girls

Party time – Page 23

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6 AUG, 24 SEP	• BOND IN MOTION
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Katherine Jenkins

Wednesday, 7.30pm,
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The Welsh songstress performs her very own tribute celebrating The Queen's 90th birthday with a sensational programme of music featuring the London Concert Orchestra.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

Jake Sims

Saturday, 6pm
O2 Academy, Birmingham
The former member of eight-piece 2014 X Factor finalists Stereo Kicks embarks on a solo tour ahead of the release of his new EP.
Visit **www.academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham/**

Dean Friedman

Saturday, 7.30pm
Wolverhampton Art Gallery
You can thank your lucky stars for this concert, featuring decades of hits from one of the finest songwriters.
Visit **http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk/-/mbo-show-details/101939/dean-friedman**

Barry Steele And Friends

Saturday, 7.30pm
New Alex Theatre, Birmingham
Barry Steele stars as Roy Orbison in a tribute show to mark the Big O's 80th birthday. The specially revamped musical features all the big hits.
Visit **www.birminghamtheatres.com/newalexandra.htm**

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POP

Jake Sims
Tomorrow at 6pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
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The Frankie Valli Story – Jersey Boy: Frankie Valli Tribute
Wed at 9pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Showaddywaddy
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Barry Steele & Friends: The Roy Orbison Story
Tomorow at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Katherine Jenkins
Wed at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Dean Friedman Concert
Tomorrow at 8pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
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ROCK & METAL

Los Endos – Ultimate Genesis: Genesis Tribute
Tomorrow at 8.30pm, £15
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Stipe: R.E.M. Tribute
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Elvis Years: Elvis Tribute
Thu at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

The Born Again Beatles
Tonight at 7pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Drongos For Europe
Tonight at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham,
B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

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Tue at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, North Street, Wolverhampton,
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Genesis Connected
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

John Grant
Tonight at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Big Deal
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
The Sunflower Lounge,
Birmingham, B5 4EG.
Call 0121 632 6756

Ben Folds
Mon at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Talon: Eagles Tribute
Tonight at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

BLUES, JAZZ SOUL & MOTOWN

Dancing In The Streets
Sun at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Jack Pack
Wed at 7pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Ma Polaine's Great Decline
Tue at 8pm,
Kitchen Garden Cafe,
King's Heath, Birmingham,
B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

The Kilkennys
Thu at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

The Slambovian Circus Of Dreams
Thu at 10.15pm,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Dee D & The James Gang
Sun at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

CLASSICAL

Tingting Yao
Tue at 1.05pm - 2pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra 2015-16: Sibelius' Second
Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Steinway Fest 16
Thu at 4.20pm - 6pm,
Gateway Education & Arts Centre, Shrewsbury, SY1 1NB.
Call 01743 355159

Jessica Efezeybek, Tung Khng Chua And Stavroula Thoma
Mon at 12.15pm - 1.15pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Hackney Colliery Band
Sun at 7.30pm, £10
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

THEATRE

Welsh National Opera: Cavalleria Rusticana & Pagliacci
Tomorrow at 7.15pm, £16.50 - £50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

The Road To Huntsville
Wed at 8pm, Thu at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Monstersaurus
Tomorrow at 11am, 2pm,
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 605 5116

A Flea In Her Ear: MD Amdrams
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Festival Drayton Centre,
Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

The Sooty Show: Sooty In Space
Tomorrow, Sun,
Cadbury World, Bournville,
Birmingham,
B30 2LU.
Call 0844 880 7667

I, Elizabeth
Wed at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Legally Blonde The Musical: Get Your Wigle On
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn,
Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Choose To Shine
Sun at 2pm, 6pm,
Oakengates Theatre,
Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Calamity Jane: BMOS Musical Theatre Company
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm,
Thu at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Hamlet
Tonight at 7.30pm - 9.30pm,
Tomorrow at 7.30pm - 9.30pm,
Mon at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm - 9.30pm,
Ludlow Brewing Co,
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SY8 2PQ. Call 01584 873291

A Night Of Dirty Dancing
Sun at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Welsh National Opera: In Parenthesis
Tonight at 7.15pm - 9.45pm,
£16.50 - £50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

The Beggar's Opera
Sun at 3pm, Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Dad's Army
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Little Shop Of Horrors
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Grumpy Old Women: 50 Shades Of Beige
Tonight at 8pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Beyond Caring
Tonight at 7.30pm - 9.50pm, Tomorrow at 2pm - 4.20pm, 7.30pm - 9.50pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Cuttin' It
Tue at 8pm - 10.20pm, Wed at 1.30pm - 3.50pm, 8pm - 10.20pm, Thu at 1.30pm - 3.50pm, 8pm - 10.20pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Northern Ballet: The Tortoise And The Hare
Tomorrow at 12.30pm, 2.15pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Northern Ballet: Jane Eyre
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

The Rocky Horror Show
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Ding Dong
Tomorrow at 11.30am, 2pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

OTHER EVENTS

Playful Penguins: Penguin Ice Adventure
Tomorrow at 10.15am, 12.45pm, 4pm, Sun at 10.15am, 12.45pm, 4pm, Mon at 10.15am, 12.45pm, 4pm, Tue at 12.45pm, 4pm, Wed at 4pm, Thu at 10.15am, 12.45pm, 4pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Musical Picnic: Midweek Explorer
Wed at 10.30am,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Out'Ray'geous Rays: Talk
Tomorrow at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
Sun at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Tue at 1.30pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Oceanic Adventures: Ocean Tunnel
Wed at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm, Thu at 12pm, 2pm, 4.30pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
Call 0871 423 2110

Midweek Explorers With Vo Fletcher (Under 5s)
Wed at 10.30am,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Paint Your Own Miniature
Tomorrow at 11am - 4pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Mister Maker
Tomorrow at 10am - 6pm, Sun at 10am - 6pm,
National Sea Life Centre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2HL.
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Nagging masterclass from grumpy women

Grumpy Old Women Kate Robbins, Jenny Eclair and Susie Blake return for 50 Shades of Beige in Birmingham

THE Grumpy Old Women are back – and aim to knock some sense into the nation.

Returning after a critically acclaimed, sell-out spring 2015 tour, the trio return to the Second City for their 50 Shades of Beige show.

Perrier Award-winning comedian, writer and original Grumpy Old Women star Jenny Eclair will be joined by fellow recruits Susie Blake, a co-star of Victoria Wood and star of Mrs Brown's Boys and Coronation Street and actress and singer Kate Robbins, of Where The Heart Is and Casualty fame, mother to actress Emily Atack.

This show, at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Friday (June 10) is the fourth leg of the current tour. The grumpy trio will educate the audience on the art of 'Grumpy Grooming', the joy of large pants, a free nagging master class, beards for women, a complimentary anger management workshop, the rules of middle-aged drinking, navigating the smorgasbord of worry, voluntary euthanasia v retirement, how to customise an unwanted pole dancing kit and even a brief Zumba demonstration. All this and more!

The show starts at 8pm with tickets at £29.15 plus £2.85 transaction fee. Call 0871 246 5898 or 0844 871 7660.

Eyre we go with romantic ballet

JOIN one of literature's most iconic heroines on a journey of courage, romance and tragedy with the World Première tour of Northern Ballet's Jane Eyre.

Based on the novel by Charlotte Brontë and performed during the 200th anniversary of her birth, the acclaimed Leeds-based company will bring this beautiful gothic love story to life at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre tomorrow evening (Friday) and on Saturday.

Jane Eyre is choreographed by British dance-maker Cathy Marston. For this new production, she has brought on-board composer Philip Feeney to compile and arrange a score for Jane Eyre.

It tells of how cruelly-treated orphan Jane grows into a responsible governess, whose world is shaken by her brooding and passionate employer Mr Rochester and how their romance is overshadowed by a dark secret.

Cathy Marston said: "Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre was a novel far ahead of its time and when I think of Jane I feel inspired by images of her passionate but 'impossible' relationship with Mr Rochester."

The company also perform Tortoise & The Hare, a 40-minute ballet for children from choreographer Dreda Blow, at the Grand on Saturday morning and again in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Birmingham Royal Ballet continue the Shakespeare commemoration with choreographer John Cranko's version of The Taming of the Shrew, a sparkling battle of the sexes comedy, performed at the Birmingham Hippodrome from June 16-18.

BRB's Shakespeare theme continues from June 22-25 with a triple bill inspired by the Bard.

These include José Limón's The Moor's Pavane, based on Othello; David Bintley's The Shakespeare Suite set to a swinging Duke Ellington score; and a new work by Jessica Lang based on the Sonnets.

"Jane Eyre was a novel far ahead of its time"

Lera lends hand at Ben Folds concert

NASHVILLE-BASED singer/songwriter Lera Lynn, a star of True Detective, supports Ben Folds on his latest tour, which hits the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, next week.

Folds a multi-platinum selling singer/songwriter, returns to the UK with yMusic following the release of his critically acclaimed album So There. Eight new chamber rock songs recorded with yMusic have also been released.

Ben and yMusic also paired up for a sold-out performance at the Royal Opera House in August.

Start time is 7.30pm next Monday, June 13. Tickets are £39. Book at www.thsh.co.uk

S Club Paul does Time Warp again

FORMER S Club member Paul Cattermole, comedian Norman Pace and one-time X Factor contestant Diana Vickers are among the cast of the Rocky Horror Picture Show at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next week.

Liam Tamne also features in Richard O'Brien's classic musical, which features the timeless tunes of Sweet Transvestite, Damn it Janet, and the pelvic-thrusting Time Warp.

It runs at the Lichfield Street venue from Monday to Saturday with two shows on each of the final two dates. Tickets start at £19.50. Call 01902 429 212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Fotheringay folk in live music return

FOLK legends Fotheringay return with a new set of live dates and will perform in Bilston later this month.

Original members Jerry Donahue, Gerry Conway, and Pat Donaldson will be joined by special guests Katherine Roberts, Sally Barker and PJ Wright – respectfully filling the shoes of Sandy Denny and Trevor Lucas – for the gig at the Robin 2, in Mount Pleasant on Tuesday, June 28.

The tour follows the release of a four-disc box set.

Tickets for the Robin date are £22.50 in advance or £24.50 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or visit www.therobin.co.uk

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Aladdin in London

Disney's new Broadway musical Aladdin will sweep you into a world filled with beauty, comedy and breathtaking spectacle.

From the producer of The Lion King, Aladdin arrives at the Prince Edward Theatre in London at the end of May and will feature all the timeless songs from the Disney film, including A Whole New World, Friend Like Me and Arabian Nights.

One of the most spectacular productions to come to London, with over 180 people involved, enjoy over 84 special effects including pyrotechnics, transformations and of course a flying carpet!

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DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

CHOICE

Kirsty Wark

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2016 (BBC2, 9.10pm)
Morgan Quaintance and Kirsty Wark go behind-the-scenes at the Royal Academy, as the institution prepares for its annual artistic showcase. This year, sculptor Richard Wilson is serving as curator, and has promised an event that will be marked by 'the wow factor'. Morgan and Kirsty offer viewers a glimpse of the works that will be on display when the exhibition opens, and share the stories of some of the aspiring artists who submitted paintings for inclusion this year.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.15** Trooping the Colour 2016. **1.05** BBC News. **1.20** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Albania v Switzerland (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.00** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Wales v Slovakia (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.20 BBC News.

7.30 Regional Programme.

7.40 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

8.30 The Musketeers. King Louis' estranged brother Gaston (newcomer Andre Flynn) returns to Paris, having previously been exiled from court. On arriving in the capital, he is involved in the brutal slaughter of a band of veteran soldiers at a tavern, and the Musketeers' loyalties are torn when the crown orders them to defend the villainous prince against recrimination. Meanwhile, as Louis welcomes his traitorous sibling back into the fold with open arms, Feron and Grimaud believe they may have found a kindred spirit.

9.25 Casualty. In the wake of Charlie's suspension, Big Mac still refuses to come clean about stealing the drugs. However, a spark of his better nature remains, and when he bravely steps into the line of fire to protect an abused young girl, he finds the courage to admit to his crimes. Meanwhile, Elle receives a frosty reception from her colleagues following her harsh treatment of Charlie, and Rita relishes the attention she is receiving from Iain, despite still being angry with him.

10.15 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.35 MOTD: Euro 2016 Highlights. Gary Lineker presents action from the latest three group matches from France, featuring England v Russia, Wales v Slovakia and Albania v Switzerland.

11.35 Film: I Know What You Did Last Summer. (1997)

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **7.30 Film:** The Maggie. (1954) **8.55 Film:** The Lavender Hill Mob. (1951) **10.15** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **10.45** The Hairy Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) **11.45** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.15** Athletics: Diamond League. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15 Film:** On Moonlight Bay. (1951) **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **5.30** This Week's World.

6.10 Trooping the Colour Highlights 2016. Huw Edwards introduces a round-up of the best moments of this morning's ceremony, from Horse Guards Parade in central London.

7.40 Gardeners' World. Monty Don plants scented annuals and squashes at Longmeadow and harvests honey, while Adam Frost looks at how small spaces in London can be utilised to attract wildlife. (R)

8.10 Grand Tours of Scotland. Paul Murton embarks on a coast-to-coast journey across the northern Highlands, from the remote lighthouse at Tarbat Ness to the castle at Eilean Donan.

8.40 Dad's Army. Sergeant Wilson inherits a title following the death of an elderly relative and joins the aristocracy – much to Mainwaring's annoyance. (R)

9.10 The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2016. Morgan Quaintance and Kirsty Wark go behind-the-scenes at the Royal Academy to provide a preview of the works set to appear in this year's summer exhibition.

10.10 QI XL. Extended edition. Bill Bailey, Sandi Toksvig, Jason Manford and regular panellist Alan Davies try to answer host Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions about lethal things.

10.55 Versailles. Harsh steps are taken to preserve the royal reputation, while flamboyant Philippe causes a stir. Elsewhere, the King humiliates a suspect noble; (R) Inside Versailles.

11.55 MOTD: Euro 2016 Match Replay. England v Russia. A chance to see in full the opening Group B game of the tournament for both sides, which took place at the Stade Velodrome in Marseille.

1.35 Film: Junkhearts. (2011) **3.10** This Is BBC Two. **5.30** Great British Garden Revival. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **2.10 Film:** Death on the Nile. (1978) Agatha Christie mystery, with Peter Ustinov. **4.55 Film:** Cats & Dogs. (2001) Comedy, starring Jeff Goldblum.

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Euro 2016. England v Russia (Kick-off 8.00pm). All the action from the opening Group B game of the tournament for both sides, which takes place at the Stade Velodrome in Marseille. Roy Hodgson's England come into this competition on the back of a perfect qualification campaign. The Three Lions won all 10 of their games to progress to the finals with relative ease, and captain Wayne Rooney broke the goalscoring record for his country along the way when he scored a penalty against Switzerland at Wembley to surpass Bobby Charlton's record of 49, which had stood for more than 45 years. By contrast, Russia squeezed through as runners-up in Group G, finishing eight points behind the impressive Austrians. Former England boss Fabio Capello was sacked as manager midway through their campaign after a slow start – replacement Leonid Slutsky won all four of his games in charge to lead the Russians to their fifth European Championship finals since the break-up of the Soviet Union. Presented by Mark Pougatch, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle, and analysis by Lee Dixon, Ian Wright and Peter Crouch.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Secrets of Growing Up. Revealing the surprising secrets of growing up. (R)

11.45 Film: Carry On Loving. (1970) Comedy, starring Sid James and Hattie Jacques.

1.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship. **7.00** Motor Sport: Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.30** Motor Sport: Caterham Motorsport. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from York, Sandown Park and Musselburgh. **4.00** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.00** Homes by the Med.

6.00 Channel 4 News.

6.20 Film: Titanic. (1997) A party of explorers studying the sunken remains of the famous liner meets an elderly woman who was a passenger on the ill-fated maiden voyage. She recounts how she boarded the ship while on the brink of being forced into marriage by her family, and was stopped from killing herself by a penniless artist. She fell in love with her saviour, but the disaster on the horizon meant their time together was doomed to be short. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Billy Zane, Kathy Bates and Bill Paxton. Edited for language and violence.

10.00 Formula 1: Canada Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Action from Montreal, where the grid positions for the seventh round of the season were decided at the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve.

11.35 Film: Zombieland. (2009) A mutated virus sweeps across America, turning most of the population into hideous flesh-eating zombies. A hard-drinking fearless adventurer leads a small band of young survivors on a perilous journey through the wasteland in search of a safe haven. Comedy horror, with Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone and Abigail Breslin.

1.10 Film: Drug War. (2012) A drug dealer facing execution tries to save his own skin by helping undercover police officers to infiltrate a crime syndicate. Gangster thriller, with Louis Koo and Ka Tung Lam. **3.00** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Ste confesses he nearly gave in to drink again. (R) **5.10** The Food Chain. (R) **5.35** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show: Royal Special. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.00** The Royals: A Right Royal Wedding. **2.00** Secrets of the Palace Pets. (R) **3.00** Inside Buckingham Palace. (R) **4.00** Inside Buckingham Palace. (R) **5.00** Inside Buckingham Palace: The Queen's Worst Year. (R)

6.00 Elizabeth II: 90 Glorious Years. Documentary looking back at the reign of Her Majesty the Queen, as she celebrates her 90th birthday. Featuring archive footage and interviews with those who have known, worked for and observed her closely. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights of the third day of the Third Test at Lord's, where the final match of the series continued. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes.

8.00 5 News Weekend.

8.20 NCIS: Los Angeles. Callen and Sam meet up with former colleague Mike Renko, who is back in town on the trail of a civilian militia he thinks is responsible for the theft of anti-tank missiles from a Navy base. Their discussion is interrupted by Hetty with footage of a man being strangled at an aquarium – and the victim is identified as a lance corporal who was Renko's inside man at the group. (R)

9.05 NCIS. An investigation into the murder of a US Navy lieutenant reveals that a rare painting loaned to the scene of the crime is actually a fake. Luckily for the agents, Tony's con-artist father has returned to town, having broken up with Linda, and is on hand to provide expert advice as the hunt for the killer takes them into the shady world of the black market. Guest starring Robert Wagner.

10.00 Big Brother. Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they react to Friday night's live eviction, revealing how another departure has affected the rest of the house.

11.00 The Funny Side of Kids.

12.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights. (R) **4.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.20** House Doctor. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Natural World **8.00** D-Day: The Last Heroes **9.00** The Disappearance **10.45** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **11.45** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **12.45** Van Morrison – Up on Cyprus Avenue **1.45** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.55** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **3.55** Close

ITV2

11.05 Catchphrase **11.50** Ninja Warrior UK **12.45** The Cube: Celebrity Special **1.45 Film:** Sweet November (2001) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50 Film:** Sweet November (2001) **4.05 Film:** Nancy Drew (2007) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Nancy Drew (2007) **6.05 Film:** The Bachelor (1999) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10 Film:** The Bachelor (1999) **8.05 Film:** Wild Child (2008) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Wild Child (2008) **10.00** Love Island **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** The Hot Desk: Caroline Flack **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.40 Agatha Christie's Marple **2.40** Foyle's War **4.50** Midsomer Murders **6.55** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Colditz **12.00** Bouquet of Barbed Wire **1.00** Northern Lights **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.20 TT 2016: Hutchy Miracle Man **12.20** TT 2016: Senior TT **1.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **3.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Live. Coverage of the sixth stage of the UCI World Tour race. **4.45** World Cup Top Goalscorers **5.00** Pawn Stars **6.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **7.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights **8.00 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **10.00** Pawn Stars **10.30** TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race 2 **11.30 Film:** Maximum Conviction (2012) **12.35** FYI Daily **12.40 Film:** Maximum Conviction (2012) **1.40** TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race 2 **2.30** Highway Patrol **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

5.00 The Big Bang Theory **11.00** Gogglebox **12.40** Rude Tube: Animal Madness **1.40** The Inbetweeners **2.45** Gogglebox **3.25** Jane the Virgin

Film4

11.00 Dark Waters (1944) **1.00** Vice Versa (1988) **2.55** The Addams Family (1991) **4.55** Addams Family Values (1993) **6.40** Iron Man (2008) **9.00** Die Hard (1988) **11.40** The Football Factory (2004) **1.30** R100 (2013) **3.40** Close

CHOICE

Angel and Dick

Escape to the Chateau (Channel 4, 7pm)
Dick and Angel decide they will live as self-sufficiently as they can while restoring the chateau, and invest in some chickens to provide them with eggs for breakfast every morning. However, they still have countless problems to deal with, and have only £20,000 left to spend on the project. The chateau is still without either heating or water, while the 59 windows are crumbling. While Dick's renovations fall behind schedule, Angel is in her element coming up with ideas for what the finished building will look like.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.25** BBC News; Weather. **12.40** Songs of Praise. **1.15** The Queen's 90th Birthday: The Patron's Lunch. **4.15** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Poland v Northern Ireland (Kick-off 5.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening match in Group C, as the teams face each other at the Stade de Nice.
7.10 BBC News.
7.25 Regional Programme.
7.35 MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Germany v Ukraine (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening match in Group C for both teams, which takes place at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Lille. This will be just the sixth overall meeting between these nations, and the first at a major tournament, and the Ukrainians will be chasing their maiden victory over the reigning world champions. Following their triumph in Brazil, Joachim Loew's men got off to a rocky start in the qualifying campaign, but eventually went on to top a group that also contained Republic of Ireland and Scotland, and they will be considered among the favourites to lift the trophy in France, and claim it for the fourth time. Their opponents are appearing at a European Championships for just the second time, with the first coming four years ago when they served as co-hosts alongside Poland, although it is worth noting that they have only been eligible as a nation since 1996, having formerly been a part of the Soviet Union. With commentary by Jonathan Pearce and Danny Murphy, and analysis by Thierry Henry and Alan Shearer.
10.05 BBC News.
10.25 Regional Programme.
10.35 Regional Programme.
11.15 Live at the Apollo. Dara O Briain warms up the crowd before introducing stand-up routines by ventriloquist extraordinaire Nina Conti and Danny Bhoy. (R)
12.00 Film: A Walk to Remember. (2002) A cocky teenage boy falls for a minister's sensible daughter while tutoring younger students as part of his community service. Romantic drama, starring Mandy Moore and Shane West. **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 This Farming Life. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **11.30** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.45** Live Triathlon. The ITU World Series meeting from Leeds.
6.00 The Queen's 90th Birthday: Highlights. Memorable moments from the weekend's events, which started on Friday with a National Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral and included the Trooping the Colour ceremony and a Patron's Lunch at St James's Park.
7.00 Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure. The duo travel through Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, paying their respects to Mayan deity Maximon and scaling the active volcano Pacaya along the way. (R)
8.00 Top Gear. Chris Evans and Sabine Schmitz test drive the new Audi R8, Matt LeBlanc takes a tour of London, and boxer Anthony Joshua and comedian Kevin Hart are the Stars in a Rally Cross Car.
9.00 City in the Sky. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry examine the advanced technology needed to ensure the safety of the one million people estimated to be travelling by plane at any given time.
10.00 Mock the Week. Guests Gary Delaney, Ed Gamble, Nish Kumar, Tiff Stevenson and Josh Widdicombe join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis. (R)
10.35 Stupid Man, Smart Phone. Russell Kane is joined by internet celebrity Mazzi Maz, and together they are pursued across Poland by guard dogs, with only their phones to help them avoid capture.
11.20 Flat TV. The flatmates are locked out, but while Tom wants to get back in, Naz sees an opportunity to be free of his friend's domestic tyranny.
11.45 The Millionaire's Holiday Club. Inside the world of high-end luxury holidays, tailored for some of the UK's wealthiest jet-setters, from a £40,000 a week trip to Seychelles to a night in Mustique for £2,000. (R)
12.45 MOTD: Euro 2016 Match Replay. **2.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.25** Holby City. (R) **4.25** Life in Debt Valley. (R) **5.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.50** ITV News; Weather. **11.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.00** Euro 2016. Turkey v Croatia (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.30** Midsomer Murders. (R)
6.25 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.40 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Emmerdale. Bernice turns to Andy for solace after he takes the blame for the damage she has caused. Holly goes into town, leaving Moira terrified she will spend her wages on heroin.
7.30 Coronation Street. Tracy accuses Steve and Michelle of making Amy feel unwanted, while Billy is shocked when Sean dumps him. At the bistro, Leanne defends Nick from Robert when he makes a scene, and Sally is horrified to find her conservatory swimming in beer.
8.30 Vera. Return of the crime drama starring Brenda Blethyn. The detective investigates a fire that rips through a holiday park on the Northumberland coast, destroying three cabins. A young woman's body is discovered and the resort's owner, Jim Viner, fears the victim is his sister Deena when he returns from a weekend away with his daughter Clare. With Jim's suspicions confirmed, a police report then reveals Clare's boyfriend Ryan and his friends had been partying near the scene hours before the blaze started, but where are they now, and where is Deena's best friend Sally? Co-starring Kenny Doughty, Cush Jumbo and Jon Morrison. (R)
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Euro 2016 Highlights. Jacqui Oatley presents action from the latest three matches in France, featuring Poland v Northern Ireland, Germany v Ukraine and Turkey v Croatia.
11.45 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine. (R)
12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Salvage SOS. **6.25** Salvage SOS. **6.50** Salvage SOS. **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Extreme Cake Makers. **1.00 Film:** Step Up 4: Miami Heat. (2012) Dance drama sequel, starring Kathryn McCormick. **2.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Scarlette Douglas helps a couple preparing for retirement to find a new home in Tobago, an island they have visited annually for the past 20 years. **5.00 Film:** Aladdin. (1992) A street urchin happens across a magical lamp, home to a genie with the ability to grant wishes. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Robin Williams and Scott Weinger.
6.45 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel try to live self-sufficiently, and invest in some chickens to provide them with eggs. However, they are still without heat and water and the 59 windows are crumbling.
8.00 Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service. The actress visits the Queen's official Scottish residence, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and explores the bed chamber once occupied by Mary, Queen of Scots. She also boards the royal yacht Britannia and visits Inveraray Castle, where she meets the Master of the Royal Household of Scotland. At Borthwick Castle in Midlothian, she gets a lesson in archery and talks to the Royal Falconer.
9.00 Interview with a Murderer. Criminologist Professor David Wilson talks to convicted murderer Bert Spencer, who served 15 years in prison for shooting a man. He has long been suspected of also killing paperboy Carl Bridgewater in 1978, a crime that four men were falsely imprisoned for, but has always protested his innocence of that crime. The programme re-examines the evidence surrounding both cases.
10.30 Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Highlights.
12.35 Grand Prix: The Killer Years. The dangers of Formula One during the 1960s and 70s. (R) **1.30** Multi-Million Pound Properties. (R) **2.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Draw It! (R) **5.05** Posh Pawnbrokers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **2.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away: Final Demand Special. (R) **3.50** Can't Pay Special: Secrets & Lies. (R) **4.50 Film:** Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War. (2002) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins.
6.50 5 News Weekend.
7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights of the fourth day of the Third Test at Lord's, where the final match of the series continued. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes.
8.00 Now That's Funny! Featuring a bodybuilder reciting Shakespeare while lifting weights, a selection of videos featuring clumsy couples, and footage of a penguin that has inspired 15 jokes. Plus, the latest Stars of the Week.
9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.00 Most Shocking Moments in Pop 2. Celebrating outrageous events from the world of pop music, including Grace Jones hitting Russell Harty on his chat show, and George Michael's dubious driving. (R)
12.45 Lip Sync Battle. Justin Bieber takes on Deion Sanders. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. A doctor sees a smoker who has developed a chronic lung condition. (R) **4.00** Fire Starter: Caught in the Act. (R) **4.50** Nick's Quest. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Pappano's Italian Double Bill at the Royal Opera House **9.40** Planet Earth **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The Lance Armstrong Story – Stop at Nothing: Storyville **12.10** Wonders of the Universe **1.10** Horizon: Man on Mars – Mission to the Red Planet **2.10** Rise of the Continents **3.10** Natural World **3.55** Close
ITV2
11.35 Take Me Out **12.50** Love Island **1.20** Catchphrase **2.05 Film:** Must Love Dogs (2005) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10 Film:** Must Love Dogs (2005) **4.00 Film:** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **6.10 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **8.00** Educating Joey Essex **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Educating Joey Essex **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
3.50 Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) **5.55** Our Queen at 90 **8.00** The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration **10.55 Film:** Closing the Ring (2007) **11.55** FYI Daily **12.00 Film:** Closing the Ring (2007) **1.10** A Touch of Frost **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** On the Buses **5.10** Judge Judy **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.25 TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race 2 **12.30** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Live. **2.15** Snooker v Darts **2.25** Pawn Stars **4.15 Film:** Gunsmoke (1953) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20 Film:** Gunsmoke (1953) **5.55** The Wine Show **7.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights **8.00 Film:** Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) **9.45** Movies Now **10.00 Film:** First Blood (1982) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05 Film:** First Blood (1982) **11.50 Film:** From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00 Film:** From Dusk Till Dawn (1996)
E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea **1.00** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **1.20** The Goldbergs **2.20** The Big Bang Theory **7.20 Film:** The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009) **10.00 Film:** Predators (2010) **12.10** The Inbetweeners **1.20** Gogglebox
Film4
1.00 Thunderbirds (2004) **2.55** Carry On Dick (1974) **4.45** The Spy Next Door (2010) **6.35** Vertical Limit (2000) **9.00** Fantastic Four (2005) **11.05** Powder Room (2013) **12.45** Silver Linings Playbook (2012) **3.15** Close

NHS
Dudley
Clinical Commissioning Group

Members of the public are invited to learn more about our year by attending Dudley CCG's

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday 7th July 2016
Venue: Brierley Hill Civic Hall, Bank Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3DH
Time: 5.30pm-6.30pm

At the event, Dudley CCG's Annual Report for the year 2015/16 will be available, and there will be a series of short presentations including a focus on developments during the year, a financial review and an overview of current and future challenges and opportunities.

Refreshments will also be provided from 5.00pm onwards so booking is essential!

Please confirm your attendance by Monday 4th July 2016 to Lindsey Harding by emailing lindsey.harding@dudleyccg.nhs.uk or calling 01384 321677. If you would like to present any questions to our Board, please submit them to Lindsey in advance.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Thinking Differently

PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
A Sister's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A police officer's life is turned on its head when her sister shows up at her door after 16 years of confinement in a psychiatric hospital. Drama, starring Natasha Henstridge and Kelly Rutherford. (2013)

TUESDAY
Columbo: Lady in Waiting, ITV, 11.40pm
A desperate woman is determined to rid herself of her domineering brother and gain control of the family business, so hatches a plan to shoot him and claim she thought he was a burglar. Although her plan seems to have worked, her new-found power goes to her head – and she also has to contend with Columbo, who is convinced of her guilt. Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. (1971)

WEDNESDAY
Lost Letter Mysteries: From Paris with Love, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The postal detectives explore the mystery of true love when they deliver divorce papers to one couple on the same day as Oliver's missing wife reappears. Drama, starring Eric Mabius and Crystal Lowe. (2015)

Red Heat, Friday, ITV, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
Like Mother, Like Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A distraught mother takes matters into her own hands when her teenage daughter goes missing and decides to investigate the case herself. She finds a supportive ally in the girl's college professor, but does not realise he is actually the man who murdered her. Thriller, starring Michelle Stafford, William R Moses and Danielle Kind. (2007)

FRIDAY
Red Heat, ITV, 11.05pm
A Russian detective travels to America to oversee the extradition of a Georgian drug baron responsible for supplying cocaine in Moscow. He is teamed up with a hostile Chicago cop, but when their prisoner kills an officer and escapes, they put aside their mutual mistrust to bring him to justice. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Belushi, Peter Boyle, Laurence Fishburne and Ed O'Ross. (1988)

A Strange end to the season is in store

Fans of the Dark Knight have been rather spoiled this year as Bruce Wayne and his associates dominated the big and small screens.

Obviously there's little chance of the pointy eared sleuth showing up in Gotham: Wrath of the Villains as it takes place before Wayne donned that iconic cowl, but he did get the chance to clash with fellow superhero the Man of Steel in one of the year's most talked about films.

Okay, it may not been a flop of Batman and Robin-style proportions, but Warner Bros' tentpole epic Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice received a savaging from many critics.

Jessie Eisenberg's cringeworthy performance as Lex Luthor, and Wonder Woman sat at a laptop watching trailers for other pending DC Comics-inspired movies such as Aquaman were two of the many problems that led to it underperforming with a $900million gross.

Not a bad haul by anyone's reckoning, but when you take into account the fact it cost $250million and needed to gross around $600milion to break even, Warner bosses were left green with envy when Captain America: Civil War (which had the same price tag) romped away with more than $1.1billion.

The clash between Marvel and DC movies has been going on for some years now, and for film fans sometimes proves more fascinating than the flicks themselves.

However, on the small screen DC characters have a better footing with hits such as The Flash, Arrow, Supergirl, Legends of Tomorrow, and this Batman prequel leaving followers hungry for more.

Naturally as this is the series finale, showrunner Bruno Heller has saved a chunk of change to ensure the latest run goes out with a bang.

Trapped inside Professor Hugo Strange's secret monster-making laboratory with a ticking bomb, detective Jim Gordon has to deal with a shape-shifting imposter, while Bruce Wayne and Lucius Fox have to contend with Edward Nygma, aka The Riddler.

In case you're wondering, that's not the same Strange which will be played by Benedict Cumberbatch in upcoming movie Doctor Strange, but a character who has been around since 1940 and became one of the Dark Knight's first recurring characters.

TV fans may recall seeing him in excellent 1990s saga Batman: The Animated Series, and assorted other shows and video games before Jurassic World's BD Wong took on the role in season two of Gotham.

Wong made history as the first actor to play Strange in a live action capacity. Now, with director and star Ben Affleck lined up to make the next Batman movie, and the fact that many villains have been exploited in the nine Dark Knight movies to date (yes, that includes the 1966 camp classic and BVS: DOJ), Hugo stands a good chance of returning for Batfleck's pending epic.

For now, settle back and enjoy as Ben McKenzie (James Gordon), David Mazouz (Bruce Wayne), Cory Michael Smith (Edward 'Riddler' Nygma) and Jada Pinkett Smith (Fish Mooney) breathe life into Bob Kane's universe.

Gotham: Wrath of the Villains – Season Finale, Monday, Channel 5, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Rubbish – Battle of the Bins: Tonight
ITV, 8pm
There was a time when you would throw your empty cans, cereal boxes and plastic milk bottles in the bin, leave it for the rubbish men and they would pick it up once a week. But then everything changed, and suddenly millions had to divide household waste up into different coloured bins and figure out what was being collected on which day. Which might be why for the first time in 10 years the recycling rates are falling, an intriguing statistic as the UK produces millions of tons of waste each year. With some councils reducing bin sizes and collecting rubbish less often, Jonathan Maitland assesses the facts and reports on the potential impact this could have on Britain's streets and the environment.

TUESDAY
Britain & Europe: The Immigration Question
BBC2, 9pm
With the EU Referendum approaching next week, Mishal Husain offers viewers an impartial insight into the effects of migration from other EU countries on the UK. Her report takes in everything from the impact on the British economy and jobs market, through to education, housing and the NHS. Experts from both sides of the in/out debate share their views on the subject, as Mishal assesses how concepts of national identity and visions of Britain's future look set to dictate how the public will vote on Thursday, June 23.

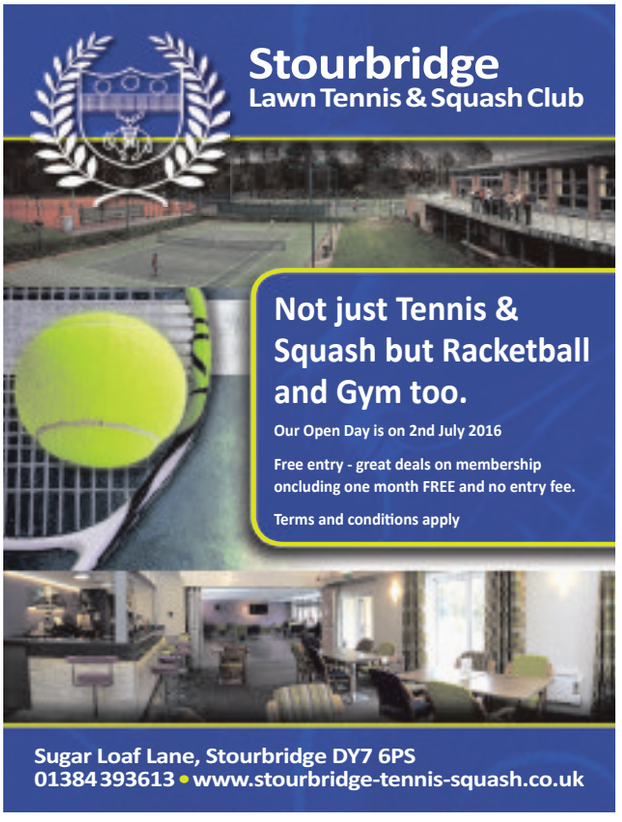
WEDNESDAY
Your Child In Their Hands: Kids' Hospital
Channel 5, 7pm
Joanna and Gary have an emotional choice to make. Their son needs an operation to repair his cleft lip and palate, but a hole in his heart as a result of premature birth means that surgery is a very dangerous prospect. Meanwhile, Jack and his mum Vicky are hospital regulars. A year ago, Jack had his knee and thigh amputated to remove a malignant tumour, but after just a few months in remission, Jack's cancer has returned. The hours after school are the busiest times in Royal Manchester Children's Hospital's A&E department, and an 11-year-old girl is on her way in. She has fallen from a climbing frame and suffered a severe blow to the head, an experience which makes her mum re-evaluate her life.

Britain & Europe: The Immigration Question, Tuesday, BBC2, 9pm

THURSDAY
The New Gypsy Kings
BBC2, 9pm
No, this is not a film about a tribute act singing Bamboleo. Instead it's a look at the latest trend in Gypsy music that is sweeping across Romania. As the majority of Romanian's Roma live below the poverty line, music has long been seen as a passport to riches, with some traditional Gypsy bands gaining international fame. However, the genre has given rise to Manele, a new of type of music with a different sound and the chance to make even more cash, mixing contemporary pop with traditional Romanian Gypsy folk music. Though its stars live luxurious lifestyles, earning up to 20,000 Euros a night, Manele has been described as the Gypsy version of gangster rap and its biggest stars have had connections to some of the country's most notorious underworld figures. Filmmaker Liviu Tipurita takes a closer look at this controversial craze.

FRIDAY
Gogglesprogs
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Following on from a pilot edition shown last Christmas, the Gogglesprogs return for a six-part run in which they maintain a close eye on a range of TV output, from entertainment shows and documentaries to some all-time classic films and up-to-the-minute news stories. Participants include six-year-old Molly and her eight-year-old brother William who both love helping out on the family farm, Stephanie who adores Justin Bieber and her friend Christina who prefers classical music, and schoolmates Jacob and Connor. In this opening programme, the youngsters offer their honest, inimitable and ultimately hilarious take on The Undateables, Donald Trump and Mamma Mia.

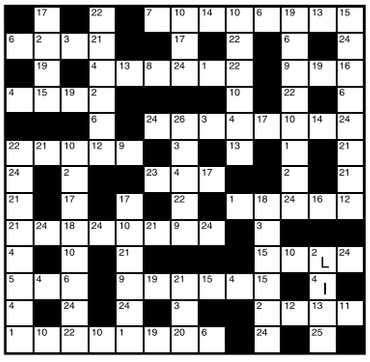
Eurotrash
Channel 4, 9pm
A special edition of the cult hit show reminding viewers of the many, varied and occasionally alarming cultural delights enjoyed by their European cousins.



BRAIN GYM No.381

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



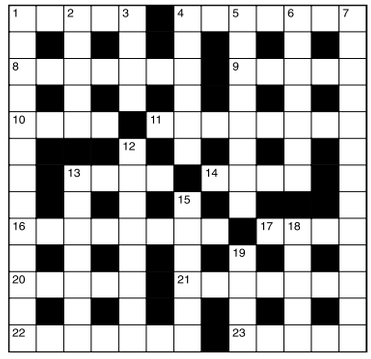
1	14
2 L	15
3	16
4 I	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
X	H	Z	M	N	A	S	O	T	L	R	B	E
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	G	D	W	K	Q	J	P	Y	U	C	I	V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Habit makes us grow old (5)
4. A match for the devil (7)
8. Just a moment! (7)
9. Not standing for falsehoods? (5)
10. Puts away in great style (4)
11. Apparently is not to be satisfied with just part, nevertheless (5,3)
13. They secure no decisions on the field (4)
14. The staff came to be disorganised (4)
16. Why we consult reference books, of course (2,2,4)
17. Domesticated, thanks to me! (4)
20. Prize awarded for a zero mark? (5)
21. It's hot being a great performer in heavy going (7)
22. Sew lots, perhaps, but be the last to finish (7)
23. It's made to measure (5)

Down

1. One girl is not changed for an international body (6,7)
2. Tessa came up with something useful (5)
3. Made up cheese (4)
4. Fired, yet treated leniently (3,3)
5. This way won't get you anywhere (3-2-3)
6. Equipment in what must be a warship (7)
7. He takes each issue as it comes (7,6)
12. Let's out that the radio's a gift (4,4)
13. There's no smoke without it! (7)
15. Speedy help for a forgetful actor (6)
18. Be of service when a few grow sick (5)
19. Sure to upset an employer (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Fear (5)
4. Betoken (7)
8. Hide (7)
9. Rank (5)
10. Sole (4)
11. Mockery (8)
13. Forehead (4)
14. Yield (4)
16. Last (8)
17. Head (4)
20. Intellect (5)
21. Obscure (7)
22. Implore (7)
23. Hail (5)

Down

1. Shameful (13)
2. Surpass (5)
3. Act (4)
4. Like better (6)
5. Recipient (8)
6. Scrutinize (7)
7. Separation (13)
12. Start (8)
13. Clamorous (7)
15. Climb (6)
18. Sufficient (5)
19. Droop (4)

Sudoku

		1	2		6			3
3						2		6
	6			5	9		1	4
		7			8		6	1
5				9				
8	1					3		
1	3		9	4			8	
		4					3	7
2			8			1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	3	2	7	8	1	5	9	6
9	6	5	3	4	2	1	7	8
1	7	8	5	6	9	2	4	3
7	5	6	9	1	8	4	3	2
3	2	9	6	5	4	7	8	1
8	1	4	2	3	7	9	6	5
6	9	3	1	7	5	8	2	4
5	4	7	8	2	6	3	1	9
2	8	1	4	9	3	6	5	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Pikestaff; 8 Once; 9 Retailing; 10 Bedlam; 11 Stand; 14 Lures; 15 Tear; 16 Emits; 18 Sups; 20 Tools; 21 Spray; 24 Rising; 25 Front door; 26 Lean; 27 Ballerina. Down: 1 Doubtless; 2 Acid drops; 4 Item; 5 Exact; 6 Talent; 7 Fine; 9 Raise; 11 Slimy; 12 Deposited; 13 Press gang; 17 Stair; 19 Spinal; 22 Adder; 23 Proa; 24 Roan. QUICK - Across: 3 Ascertain; 8 Reap; 9 Contented; 10 Callow; 11 Brief; 14 Pupil; 15 Rate; 16 Slain; 18 Corn; 20 Onset; 21 Salad; 24 Lethal; 25 Delighted; 26 Fort; 27 Governess. Down: 1 Precipice; 2 Callipers; 4 Slow; 5 Enter; 6 Tender; 7 Idea; 9 Coils; 11 Brand; 12 Falsehood; 13 Ventilate; 17 Noted; 19 Native; 22 Ashen; 23 Nero; 24 Less.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who wrote a trilogy of books featuring the spy Bernard Samson?
2. Of which fruit is the plantain a subspecies?
3. From which football club did Billy Bonds claim he was forced out after 27 years?
4. Between which two countries was the former kingdom of Navarre divided?
5. Of which county is Parts of Holland a former separate administrative county?
6. Who wrote the cantata Carmina Burana?
7. From which tree is gum arabic obtained?
8. In which country is the province Friesland?
9. Who was the first Irish athlete ever to win a gold medal at the European Championships?
10. By what name was Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar better known?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Flower arrangement;

2 Linford Christie; 3 Cardinal Wolsey;

4 Patmos; 5 Charlotte Brontë; 6 France;

7 Iron; 8 Relativity; 9 A rodent; 10 Dutch.

Niner: LUCRATIVE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7238 gives an instrument,
5695 gives an opera,
4171 gives a musical piece.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Soft and sweet – the falafel starter

Lamb beyti served with salad

Centrally placed, this Turkish treasure – Basil of Anatolia

Chicken shish dish

Nothing Fawlty about this one, Basil is a real Turkish delight

ONE place that Walsall really lags behind on is its dining scene.

By Leigh Sanders

Other than your usual smattering of chain eateries you are hard-pressed to find somewhere centrally that offers up that taste of difference.

So when news filtered through that a new option was coming – and it would have the USP of Turkish food – the town really sat up and took notice.

And having now experienced what Basil of Anatolia has to offer, let's hope it is able to grow and thrive.

From what we witnessed one cool Friday night they deserve to be able to capture their own corner of the market and make a real go of it. And in times of economic hardship it would be ace to have a success story to use as a proverbial two fingers to all the doom-mongerers and pessimistic bad news merchants. Basil, as the place will from now on affectionately be called, has a central location, round the corner from the library, nestled on Freer Street.

Of course the downside can be the difficulty to park. But given most of the surrounding council-owned car parks are free after 6pm you can leave your vehicle in the one just off Lichfield Street and it's only a short stroll away.

It has a simple feel, yet is clean and strangely welcoming given the building is just a generic food space – it was Jenny's Restaurant before if that jogs people's memory.

It wasn't busy for a Friday night, sad to see given our earlier hopes that this will be a successful venture. Hopefully this was a glitch the evening we attended and that on a normal evening, the people of Walsall and beyond are more outgoing.

With near enough the freedom of the venue we picked a table at the back to try and avoid the happy hubbub of a couple of larger groups sitting near the entrance.

Conversation

Everything felt clean and new. One nice touch was each table had the venue's name and logo etched into them.

We were approached quickly. Our server engaged us in conversation straight away. He asked whether we had eaten Turkish food before and our tastes when it came to spices. This is always helpful when trying somewhere new.

We ordered, and were provided with ginormous olives soaked in oils and soft, light chunks of bread that we probably shouldn't have wolfed down so early if we had hoped to last three courses. For starters I had sucuk – a spicy Turkish sausage. The meat was soft and tender. My friend had the falafel – minced, deep fried balls of chickpeas, fresh vegetables, garlic and sesame seeds served with tangy chutney.

When we dined the place had not yet received its alcohol license so was serving soft drinks only but that will change.

For mains I opted for lamb beyti – lamb mincemeat with garlic and parsley on a skewer.

My flatmate had the chicken shish, chunks of soft and tender chicken in a mildly spiced marinade .

A second bowl of bread was also being wolfed down. This was probably a bad idea, and meant we had no room to brave a dessert afterwards. Lovely food and people, so come on people give it a try.

Commercial Feature ADVERTISEMENT

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Meanwhile the Danilo Suite is the bigger of the two function rooms with staging if required and a DJ area which has access to the in-house sound system. It is available to hire and its capacity is up to 700 people, this is the perfect venue to hold any function from Weddings parties to huge Sports events such as Boxing or corporate functions.

Prospective clients are asked to visit the venues website on www.thearenastourbridge.co.uk for forthcoming events in the main nightclub with our infamous #HouseParty nights on Saturdays and MixEd?Up Fridays.

The Arena is the place to be in Stourbridge and boasts a late license till 6am, for all those who like to party to the early hours.

The Arena is situated in the perfect location for room hire in Stourbridge with plenty of on road and nearby parking. Situated at the end of the main high street in Stourbridge, the club is close to all the main transport links.

For more information please email manager@thearenastourbridge.co.uk

You can also visit the website www.thearenastourbridge.co.uk

Full support is on offer to make sure your special night runs smoothly and you can even hire our resident DJ's as well.

Van show full of promise

By Sharon Walters

VanExperience Live 2016, the ultimate test drive from Mercedes-Benz Vans, is now officially open for registration from all interested van operators to come to the UK's largest event of its kind, via www.MBVans.co.uk/VEL

Open for all van operators, VanExperience Live promises to be bigger than ever before, with more than 2,500 van operators expected to arrive. Taking place at Millbrook Proving Ground in Bedfordshire across 10 week days from June 20 to July 1, VanExperience Live is now celebrating its 13th year.

There will be three main hands-on demonstration areas to help guests assess how Mercedes-Benz vans perform in all areas:

- Drive It – A full range drive to experience the entire product line-up from Mercedes-Benz Vans, and compare them directly with competitor test vehicles
- Test It – A challenging off-road course to show the skills of the Sprinter 4x4 and 6x6 vehicles
- Trust It – A safety-focused activity, including handling on the all-new wet grip experience

Steve Bridge, managing director of Mercedes-Benz Vans, said: "This is the first time in the event's 13-year history that we are opening up the doors of VanExperience Live to all van operators, to really help them to make their minds up when it comes to assessing their next vehicle purchase – the feedback we receive each year proves the format is the best in the industry. We know how important vans are to our guests, and appreciate that many who attend aren't 'van drivers' – they are people who use a van to deliver goods or services, so it is our promise to provide as much support as possible to these UK businesses, enabling them to focus on delivering their customers great service without having to worry about their van. I look forward to seeing many van operators there – from a one-van business, through to some of the biggest fleets in the UK."

I look forward to seeing many van operators there – from a one-van business, to some of the biggest fleets in the UK

With experts available throughout the event to answer any questions, guests can use their time at VanExperience Live to fully understand the range of products and services offered by Mercedes-Benz Vans and how Mercedes-Benz Vans can support their business, including: MobiloVan free roadside assistance; Accessories to personalise any Mercedes-Benz van; GenuineParts and their importance; and the Star Expert team will be on-hand to answer any van-related queries, including product, industry and legislative questions.

A complete display of vehicles will also be available to access, including vans from more than 30 body builder and conversion exhibitors to show how adaptable a van can be.

In addition, guests will have access to all areas of the business, including Management, as the entire Mercedes-Benz Vans UK team relocates to the event for the duration.

- If any van operator would like to attend, they can register their interest by visiting **www.MBVans.co.uk/VEL**

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08/58	**PEUGEOT 207 1.6 VTi** 3-dr, Automatic, Blue, 22,000 miles	£3995
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13/13	**FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC** 3-dr, Red, 23,000 miles	£6995
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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, June 9, 2016

XLV, like a Tivoli but bigger

SSANGYONG has announced the new Tivoli XLV, an extended body model of its already popular Tivoli compact SUV.

"Following rapid growth in the compact SUV market, SsangYong responded in 2015 by launching Tivoli, its first small SUV, and already the company's most successful new car. Some 64,000 cars were manufactured and sold around the world last year," said Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong Motor UK.

"Tivoli has been praised universally for meeting a number of customer requirements, not least its ability to carry five adults in comfort and with one of the largest boot capacities, while many other cars in the sector are regarded as being a 'down-size' too far.

"Now SsangYong has gone a step further by launching an extended car to provide even more carrying capacity and practicality.

"This was shown as the XLV Air concept at the IAA motor show in Frankfurt last year, and from the extremely favourable feedback received, took the decision to put the car into production.

"Following its international debut at Geneva, the Tivoli XLV is now being launched in Europe, and arrives in the UK this summer. Annual sales from the Tivoli platform including XLV are forecast to exceed 100,000 cars this year," he added.

Sharing the same platform and 2,600mm wheelbase as the Tivoli, the XLV features a lengthened body from behind the C pillar, an increase of 238mm over the standard car, expanding the load capacity to a huge 720 cubic litres of space. Meanwhile, the styling cues that distinguish Tivoli are retained, including its harmoniously fused SUV body design, sports coupé look and floating roofline.

Designed to offer a multi-role, multi-function solution to a wide range of customers, Tivoli XLV provides just the versatility needed to meet individual lifestyles: family car for lugging baby buggies and cots for small children, bikes and golf clubs for the sports-minded, and materials or business equipment during the working week.

Passenger safety has been a top priority for this car, and comes with seven airbags including front, side and curtain airbags plus a driver's knee airbag, multi-function ESP (Electronic Stability Program), Active Rollover Protection, Brake Assist, Hill Start Assist and ESS (Emergency Stop Signal), a tyre pressure monitoring system and a warning reminder on all five seat belt positions.

Smooth

Tivoli XLV is offered with a Euro 6 compliant 1.6 litre diesel engine, and matched with the option of a 6-speed manual transmission or 6-speed Aisin automatic, two-wheel drive or 4x4.

The newly developed 1.6 litre e-XDi160 Euro 6 diesel engine produces 115ps/3,400-4,000rpm max power with 300Nm/1,500-2,500rpm, and delivers a smooth, progressive and powerful driving experience. It also features a fifth generation E-VGT turbocharger which maximises performance especially in the mid-low speed range so it is fun and responsive to drive. With manual transmission there's also ISG (stop/start) to meet the demand for low CO2 emission levels.

The 1.6 litre diesel engine achieves a CO2 emission level of just 117g/km (two-wheel drive, manual transmission with Stop/Start), and economy of up to 62.8mpg on the Combined cycle.

The SsangYong DNA is all about 4x4, and the Tivoli XLV draws on this by offering the option of an intelligent 4-wheel drive system.

The electronically controlled on-demand system distributes power to front and rear drive shafts, and automatically adjusts to the road surface and driving conditions to optimise performance.

In normal driving, the drive system distributes all power to the front wheels to enhance fuel efficiency, and automatically adapts to 4-wheel drive in snow or wet slippery conditions, by diverting power to the rear wheels as well to ensure driving stability.

For increased stability and reassurance, particularly when driving on a hill or slope, the 4-wheel drive operates with Hill Start Assist which helps by delivering power to any wheels that are spinning. And for optimised braking performance, ESP and ABS also control the 4x4 system for greater safety.

With a 167mm ground clearance, approach angle of 20.0 degrees, 20.8 degree departure angle, and 17.0 degree ramp angle, a highly competent off-road capability is assured.

Comprehensively equipped, the Tivoli XLV features digital-dual zone automatic air conditioning, an infotainment system with RDS radio, 7" high-resolution touch screen, USB/AUX port, iPod & Bluetooth connectivity, Tom-Tom navigation and rear view camera.

There is cruise control, parking sensors front and rear, rain sensing wipers, automatic headlight activation and stylish roof rails.

All models in the SsangYong range are covered by a best-in-class five year limitless mileage warranty.

Designed to be totally transparent and give customers complete peace of mind, 'limitless' means just that: not a maximum mileage condition that some brands impose in their small print.

All the major mechanical components are covered including wheel bearings, suspension joints and bushes, steering joints, shock absorbers and even the audio system.

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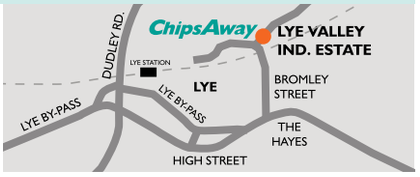

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3 Home & Services

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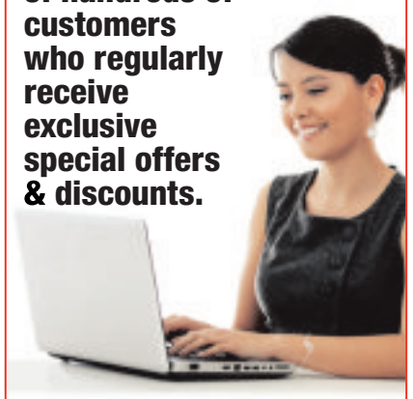

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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FORD KUGA 2.0TDCi, 61, black metallic, Immaculate in and out, 80,200 miles, Dealer FSH, full MoT, £7,600 ono. 07971 783740.

FORD MONDEO Titanium X, 2.2, 2009, 39k, hypnotic silver, immaculate, 1 owner, sunroof, rear spoiler, FFSH, £6,995. 07976 584250.

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In the Matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
In the Telford County Court
No 48 of 2016
Gerald Patrick Cooper (Deceased)
Residential Address: formerly of Willow Beck, Vine Lane Clent, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 9PH. Date of Birth: 17 September 1948. Bankrupt's Occupation: Lately carrying on business as a financial advisor. Name and address under which bankrupt carried on business: Cooper Financial Services, 4 Station Road, Codsall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV8 1BX
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 6.124 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that Alec D Pillmoor has been appointed Trustee of the above by a Meeting of Creditors.
Office Holder Details: Alec D Pillmoor (IP number 7243) of Baker Tilly Creditor Services LLP, Two Humber Quays, Wellington Street West, Hull HU1 2BN. Date of Appointment: 26 May 2016. Further information about this case is available from Leanne Skipworth at the offices of Baker Tilly Creditor Services LLP on 01482 607200.
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10 Personals

personal

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Blakenall Bashers finished having won two, drawn one and lost two of their games

Blakenall Bashers keeper Tony Spruce, aged 73

Rachel Smith, centre, with DudCel 's Patel Heena and Jayne Knight

DudCel player Paul Osborne makes a pass

Football game a walk in the park for competitors

SPORTING FEATURE By Joe Edwards

THEY say age is just a number and that certainly proved to be the case as walking football took over Molineux recently.

Over the past few years the sport has become a big hit, with thousands across the country rediscovering their love for the beautiful game thanks to the slowed-down version.

At Wolves, competitors well into their 80s lived the dream by playing on the hallowed turf in a six-team competition.

The teams involved – Bert Williams Old Boys, Blakenall Bashers, DudCel, GetSet2Go, Pete Clarke Wolves and Platty's Pensioners – played in a six-a-side round-robin format, each game lasting 10 minutes.

Unlike the traditional points system, teams were awarded five for a win, three for a draw and one for a defeat, and, after more than two hours of competition, Bert Williams Old Boys were crowned champions after going through the tournament unbeaten and picking up 21 points.

The event, organised by Black Country In Motion, was part of the annual Wolves Community Trust Project Day.

"The atmosphere was great, of course it always helps when the sun is shining."

Rachel Smith, sports activator for Black Country In Motion, said: "The players spent two hours on the pitch as part of the Wolves Community Trust Project Day.

"The atmosphere was great, of course it always helps when the sun is shining but it was really good to be involved with. The project day is an annual event and walking football is growing all of the time."

She added: "There was somebody who was 86 who played (Dennis Whistance from Bentley, who turned out for Pete Clarke Wolves). I think it was a lifelong ambition of his to play at Molineux as well.

"It is a great sport, especially for those who didn't think they would be able to carry on playing after their 40s or 50s. All in all, it was a really good day."

Walking football was first developed by Chesterfield FC's Community Trust in 2011 to keep over-50s on the pitch.

In the five years since, it has grown at an incredible rate and there are now more than 400 teams around the country. Based on the traditional game, walking football has specific rules which sees a free-kick awarded to the other side for running, while there is no offside rule and slide tackles are banned.

Substitutions are roll-on, roll-off, and the ball must remain below hip height. It was originally played without any goalkeepers but the likes of 64-year-old Stourbridge man John Cattermole and Tony Spruce, 73, were between the sticks for Bert Williams Old Boys and Blakenall Bashers respectively at Molineux.

There are plans to have another walking football competition at Molineux next year.

Dennis Whistance, aged 86, played for Pete Clarke Wolves

Dave Wright, aged 67, and grandson Billy, nine

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Sport

Walk on! Molineux competition proves stroll in park for players
Page 35

Bate is first Briton home in Europeans

BLACK Country Triathletes were competing far and wide as the season sees longer distance triathlon races taking place.

A large club contingent made their way to the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham to take on the Outlaw Half Triathlon. This comprised a 1,900m open water swim, 90km bike and a 21k run, all in under nine hours to be considered an Outlaw.

Chris Wood was first home for the club in 4:30:28 finishing 20th overall and second in his age group 40-44. Neil Millward came in in 4:47:46, followed by Jon Link in 5:01:00, Tim Lake 5:22:23, Matt Price 5:31:16, Paul Silk 5:57:24, Dave Evans 6:47:54 and Lorraine Gayton 7:31:31.

The weekend also saw Keith Bate and Steve Blakemore racing in Lisbon, Portugal, representing Great Britain at the European Triathlon Championships. Bate raced in the sprint distance and came home fourth overall in his age group and first Brit home, Blakemore competed in the standard distance and came home 21st out of a large field of 76 in his age group.

Closer to home several athletes raced the Tri UK Shropshire Triathlon at Ellesmere with three of them taking podium places. Gary Bonner finished third overall in the sprint distance race and first in his age category, Lee Moreton taking third in his age group for the standard distance race and Gemma Evans finishing first in her age group, also in the standard distance race.

The juniors section also did their club proud with Reece Ashfield racing in the Nottingham Sprint Triathlon finishing 28th overall and first youth. There were no medals taken at the Warwickshire Junior Triathlon but all the club athletes that took part had great races with some fantastic sprint finishes for the line.

Presidents Cup win is 11th on trot for chess king Scriven

DAVE Scrivens won the Presidents Cup, for services to Stourbridge Chess Club, for the 11th successive year.

The Denis Fernihough Trophy, awarded at the club's AGM for most improved player, went jointly to Sam Bradley and Martin Berridge. Grand master Keith Arkell won the Sydney Willets Trophy for the best club player.

The club is now starting its programme of summer activities which enable members to stay in form and for prospective members to try their hand.

Stourbridge Chess Club's summer tournament starts on June 15. The five-round tournament uses the Swiss pairing system, meaning everyone has the opportunity to play in all five rounds and will be paired against an opponent with the same score. The second round will be held on July 1 with the remaining rounds taking place once a fortnight.

Eric Horwill, Paul Sharratt and Sam Bradley represented Worcestershire in the recent quarter final match for players graded under 140 against cup holders Kent. Worcestershire won 12½-3½ and are now through to the semi final.

Ladies team will grow thanks to grant

Football

SKY Sports News presenter Hayley McQueen has congratulated Gornal Ladies FC after they received a £4,500 Grow the Game grant from the Football Foundation.

The grant from the country's largest sports provider, will boost grassroots football in Gornal and surrounding areas and will pave the way for Gornal Ladies FC to create a new girls academy and three new teams at open age, u-9s and u-11s – adding to their existing teams. It will also help to fund a number of coaches by providing access to FA coaching qualifications.

The Grow the Game scheme is designed to increase participation among under-represented groups by helping clubs to meet the essential costs of starting new teams. It is funded by the Premier League and The FA and delivered by the Football Foundation.

Grow the Game grants enable clubs to provide regular football for three specific sections of society where there is a demand, but a lack of opportunities. These sections are: women and girls; disabled players; and boys and mens' teams from the under-15 age group and above.

Alan Moore, chairman of Gornal Ladies and Gornal Colts said: "This grant will be a massive boost to our plans to grow the participation in the girls and ladies game within the local Gornal community and surrounding areas."

McQueen, a Football Foundation Ambassador, said: "Grants like this one make a real difference to grassroots football.

"They help clubs meet the costs associated with starting a new team – like getting volunteer coaches qualified with FA coaching badges – and so help to drive up participation levels in the sport, especially amongst under-represented groups."

SNOOKER ACE TRIBUTES PAID

THE funeral takes place next week of Stourbridge snooker stalwart Frank Golding.

Followers of the sport will be saddened to hear of Mr Golding's death, on Saturday, May 21, following a long and brave battle against cancer. He was 82.

Mr Golding, of Kinver Constitutional Club, will be laid to rest at Cole Street Methodist Church, Netherton, on Monday June 13. The funeral cortege is scheduled to pause outside the club around midday.

He began to play for Old Hill Conservative Club in the Stourbridge & District Snooker League in the early 1960s, along with his life-long friend, Ron Smith. They had a season playing for Kingswinford British Legion, then, having to miss a season in accordance with league rules at that time, switched to Kingswinford Conservative Club.

They began to play for Kinver in the newly opened snooker room there in the early 1970s but while Smith continues to represent the club with great success, Mr Golding's illness forced him to stand down from the team just over three years ago. He was a very good player, having most wins in the top division on one occasion, a great achievement considering the quality of the leading players some 36 years ago.

Whilst he achieved a great deal at snooker, he will also be remembered for his success as a local cricketer. They met at Dudley Grammar School, and Mr Golding was asked to play for Dudley 3rd XI by the school's New Zealand cricket coach, Bill Bennett, in 1950, aged 16. Having taken seven wickets on his debut, Mr Golding played for the 2nd XI the following week, taking six wickets, and was promoted to the first XI the next week, where he stayed, opening the bowling for the next 24 years. He resisted the call to represent the county for £7 per week, in summer months only, to concentrate on his business activities. After reaching the age of 40, Mr Golding then played for Enville Cricket Club, serving them with distinction for more than 20 years.

The league extends its deepest sympathies to Mr Golding's family and friends which include the members of the Kinver Constitutional snooker teams.

Young players' festival success

Tipton Youth Under-14s and Dietmar Hamann with their trophies

TIPTON Youth Under-14s rubbed shoulders with a former Liverpool star after winning the ESF Festival of Football.

They dominated the tournament, held at Butlin's Minehead, going eight games unbeaten and not conceding a single goal. They were then presented with their trophy by Dietmar Hamann.

The triumph means they automatically qualify for the ESF Grand Finale, the champion of champions event, which takes place in July at England's St George's Park training base in Burton.

German legend Hamann said: "With so many teams involved, being crowned ESF Champions is no mean feat, so congratulations to Tipton Youth FC."

Tipton Youth have two teams at under-14 level, one in the Midland Junior Premier League and the other in Division One of the Stourbridge and District Youth League.

Tipton Youth manager Spencer Weston said: "It is a massive annual festival and we did really well because we only had 12 lads there, so one substitute. We didn't lose a game and didn't concede a single goal.

"To be crowned ESF Champions in the under-14 tournament and to be presented the trophy by Didi Hamann was a fantastic way to finish the season."

Sarah faces her D-Day on 10k run

THERE was very little to get their teeth into for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running club at the weekend. Those looking for competition were forced to travel a little further afield, try something a little more low key or something completely different if they wanted to race.

Sarah Cox travelled south to Portsmouth to take part in the D-Day 10k, a race now in its 20th year and run to commemorate the Allied landings in northern France during the Second World War. Although the voices in her head were constantly telling her to stop, she resisted the temptation to finish in 381st place in a time of 54.39 placing 11th in her age group.

Roger Beddard and Lee Avery stayed a little closer to home by taking part in the Sutton Fun Run, an 8.5 mile "race" in Sutton Coldfield. Although results are on hold while they await verification, both ran well in hot conditions despite failing to record any personal best times. And Samantha Hemming and Meg Dowen took part in Adrenaline Rush 2016, a muddy obstacle course race boasting ring grappling, slides, climbs, airbags and more.

Those looking for something a little less unorthodox were left to pursue some fast times at a local Park Run, at Wolverhampton. Graham Wildgoose recorded a time of 20.03, Steve Wood 20.34, John Andrews 22.04, Dave Ede 25.07, Preston Grundy 28.43, Robert Payne 28.51 and Nikki Wilkinson 35.16. At Walsall Dave Norman ran a steady 20.14 to pace his son, DK's youth policy Daniel, round to a new PB of 20.46 and Helen Williamson clocked 33.23.

At Wyre Forest Mark Homer finished in a handy fifth place in 20.28, Andy Litchfield finished in 23.31, Pete Krivosic in 25.58 and Sarah Krivosic stopped the clock in 31.56.

Pottinger looking to get the job done

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger insists his riders will need to focus on getting the job done against Buxton at Monmore next Monday. The Heathens start their Knockout Cup second leg tie level with the Hitmen at 44-all.

And Pottinger is looking for more of an all-round team performance from his side. "It's going to be important for us to get off to a good start to try and put the tie to bed early," he said.

Cradley legend Simon Cross is back at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Monday, June 20, from 8pm. Tickets are £6, or £5 for season ticket holders and Heathens Supporters Trust members.

★★★

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Premium bases and crusts charged as extra

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

LOCAL RETAILER TO CLOSE.

Local furniture retailer, Furniture Barn is to close its doors for the last time in Kidderminster. The decision to close was made a few days ago.

After tough trading, Furniture Barn is taking the step to close the Kidderminster store and consolidate the business around its 3 northern stores and their strong online business.

Luke Griffiths (Store Manager) said he was saddened that Furniture Barn was closing but knew there would be some amazing bargains when the clearance sale starts this Saturday. Luke also said there was another retailer looking to take over the unit, as it was a busy retail park.

MASSIVE CLOSING DOWN SALE.

"This Saturday 11th June will see the start of the biggest sale in Furniture Barn's 50-year history, and no doubt will bring out the real bargain hunters when we open our doors at 10am" said Luke. "The Kidderminster store is currently closed whilst we make preparations and mark down prices on our entire stock."

Judging by the number of calls we've had since news of the Closing Down Sale leaked, we anticipate huge crowds of shoppers this weekend.

EVERYTHING AT A FRACTION OF THE COST.

Whether you're looking to give your study a makeover, find a new dining table or revamp the master bedroom, there will be plenty of bargains at Furniture Barn.

We had a quick look inside the store and saw beautifully crafted furniture of the highest quality in a wide variety of finishes from oak to reclaimed timbers. From traditionally styled collections to the more contemporary, they offer that something a little bit different to our readers. Sofas, dining tables, chairs, coffee tables, bookcases, beds, wardrobes and accessories are all included in the Closing Down Sale.

"And almost everything is available immediately for collection or delivery" said Luke. "We have arranged our distribution teams to be on standby to ensure we can get the furniture to our customers' homes quickly and efficiently".

SOFAS FROM JUST £185.

This Saturday promises to be a bargain hunter's paradise. Here's a sneak preview at some of the furniture on offer and the amazing savings to be made…

Baker Chiltern Reclaimed Coffee Table
was £445 now £48 to clear!

Antibes Oak Extra Large Sideboard
was £1,335 now £214 to clear!

Baker Flagstone 1.5 metre Extending Dining Table
was £1,175 now £178 to clear!

"Obviously, there are real bargains to be had" said Luke. "Many are one-off offers which I'm sure will be snapped up quickly when we open our doors at 10am on Saturday. However with thousands of product lines to be cleared, there's something for everyone - something to suit every lifestyle and every home, and all at unrepeatable Lowest Prices ever".

UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC FUTURE, CERTAINLY LOWEST PRICES.

With Britain's future in the EU being put out to a referendum, the economy continues to remain volatile. However, these economic conditions have actually enabled Furniture Barn to find some cracking deals from their European suppliers. You will be amazed at the exceptionally low prices they have been able to negotiate for superior quality products.

And now those prices have been reduced even further as part of their closing down sale. But if Britain leaves the EU these deals could become very hard to find. So get them while they last.

The decision to close down the Kidderminster Furniture Barn store does not affect any of the company's other stores (Grantham, Sheffield or Doncaster) and their website will continue to trade.

FIND OUT MORE OVERLEAF.

FURNITURE BARN **CLOSING DOWN SALE** STARTS 10AM SATURDAY (11TH JUNE)

CLOSING DOWN SALE

FURNITURE BARN

SELLING QUALITY FURNITURE SINCE 1964

KIDDERMINSTER

£1 MILLION OF STOCK

NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

Kidderminster Store • Living Room • Dining Room • Bedroom

For example, these are one-off items which will be sold on a first come, first served basis:

	WAS	NOW
Danielle Large Footstool	£749	£193
Flagstone 5'0" Bed Frame	£1,899	£347
Duke 5 Shelf Unit	£289	£86
Sabire Love Chair	£865	£99
Bexley Coffee Table	£525	£72
Hogan 2 Seater Sofa	£1,155	£185
Harrogate 3 over 4 Chest of Drawers	£765	£99
Charlotte Large TV Unit	£399	£77
Samba Nest of Tables	£165	£29
Bexley 6 Drawer Chest	£925	£186

STARTS 10AM SATURDAY 11TH JUNE 2016

CLOSING DOWN SALE

EVERY ITEM REDUCED

NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED

£1 MILLION OF STOCK

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

Kidderminster Store • Living Room • Dining Room • Bedroom

For example, these are one-off items which will be sold on a first come, first served basis:

	WAS	NOW
Camden Dining Chair	£135	£25
Harrogate Lamp Table with Drawer	£249	£49
Stonehouse Extendable Table	£489	£126
Gloucester Console Table	£299	£58
Porto Sofa Chair	£1,155	£249
Bexley Fixed Dining Table	£599	£113
Sofa Bed	£1,165	£199
Crystal Chair	£138	£25
Bayonne Coffee Table	£419	£83
Cleveland 4'6" Bed Frame	£729	£195

STARTS 10AM SATURDAY 11TH JUNE

FURNITURE BARN
SELLING QUALITY FURNITURE SINCE 1964

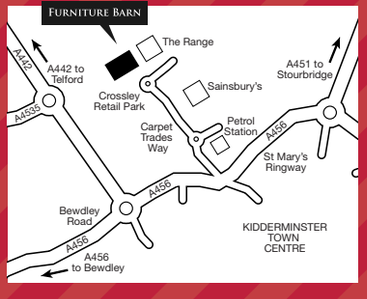
FURNITURE BARN

SELLING QUALITY FURNITURE SINCE 1964

CLOSING DOWN SALE

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

STARTS 10AM SATURDAY 11TH JUNE 2016



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